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# THE TIMES

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## Hague launches 'kitchen table' Toryism

By TIM HAMES

IN A striking shift of thinking, William Hague has ordered all members of his Shadow Cabinet to adopt a new political approach known as "kitchen table conservatism".

The essence of the Tory initiative will be a major change in political and presentational emphasis. The leadership will now focus on core issues known to be of central importance to the electorate and address those subjects in similarly direct language.

Shadow Cabinet members have been told that they must stop attempting to defend the last Conservative administration, be more willing to admit that mistakes were made, under Margaret Thatcher and John Major, and then move on to discuss new Conservative ideas.

The new strategy has seven "campaigning criteria". These are: the use of language that resonates with voters; a willingness to listen; an emphasis on the future not the past; a readiness to concede past failings and to move on; being fair as well as against them; maintaining a sense of proportion while criticising the Government; and the importance of absolute integrity.

Mr Hague wants the Tories

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| TV & RADIO     | 46, 47 |
| WEATHER        | 24     |
| CROSSWORDS     | 24, 48 |
| LETTERS        | 21     |
| OBITUARIES     | 23     |
| LORD SHORE     | 20     |
| AKTS           | 18, 19 |
| CHESS & BRIDGE | 38     |
| COURT & SOCIAL | 22     |
| LAW REPORT     | 41     |
| FASHION        | 16, 17 |
| BUSINESS       | 42-46  |

By the Times overseas  
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A Japanese helicopter reaches the British balloon, above, while Colin Prescott and Andy Elson, below, describe their descent

## Longest balloon trip ends in sea

By SUSIE STEINER AND ROBERT WHYMANT

THE world's longest balloon journey came to an abrupt end yesterday when the all-British Cable & Wireless balloon team were forced to ditch into the ocean off the coast of Japan.

Last night the remaining round-the-world challenger — the Breitling Orbiter 3 — was continuing on its course over the Middle East, while attempts were under way to retrieve the 200 ft Cable & Wireless balloon from the Pacific.

Pilots Andy Elson, 45, of Wells, Somerset, and Colin Prescott, 48, of Stockbridge, Hampshire, leapt into water from their floating capsule at 4am yesterday. The balloon



had been forced down by driving snow and the team had to be plucked to safety by a Japanese military helicopter. Despite failure in the last great aviation challenge, the pair achieved a new endurance record for the longest hot air balloon flight, previously set at ten days.

miles short of American Steve Fossett's distance record.

Speaking from an air base in Hamamatsu, Japan, yesterday, Mr Prescott told how he and Mr Elson had navigated down to about 100 ft above water level as a storm whipped up around them.

"Andy did a fantastic job of the landing," said Mr Prescott. "We got it down very gently, which was a relief because it could have been nasty."

While Mr Prescott and Mr Elson now face the sad task of sifting through the wreckage of their attempt, one woman expressed her relief.

Mr Elson's mother, Phyllis, said that said she was disappointed for her son but added: "I hope he doesn't try it again."

## Film director Stanley Kubrick dies aged 70

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

STANLEY KUBRICK, the reclusive and obsessive director behind 2001: A Space Odyssey and A Clockwork Orange, died yesterday at his home in Hertfordshire. He was 70.

A doctor was called to Childwickbury Manor, a sprawling estate near St Albans, where Mr Kubrick lived with his wife Christiane. Police said they were not treating the death as suspicious.

The director, who exhausted many actors and film-makers with his exacting standards — it was not uncommon for him to demand 50 takes from his actors, had been working on an erotic thriller, Eyes Wide Shut, starring Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise, at London's Pinewood studios. The film is due to be released in July.

A spokesman for the family said: "Stanley Kubrick died in the early hours of the morning. There will be no further comment at this time." Last night Ms Kidman and Mr Cruise released a statement, which said: "He was like a family to us and we are in shock and devastated."

Mr Kubrick, who shunned the glamorous life of Hollywood and rarely left his home, was regarded as a phenomenon in modern cinema; in 31 years he produced ten feature films that earned eight Oscars and 14 nominations. His films included Lolita, Dr Strangelove, Spartacus and Full Metal Jacket.

His death could raise the question of whether A Clockwork Orange, the screen adaptation of Anthony Burgess's bleak and violent novel, is released in Britain again. In 1973 Mr Kubrick withdrew the film from circulation in Britain after it provoked copycat attacks. However, this may now be reviewed.

Mr Kubrick first established himself as one of America's top directors in 1957 with Paths of Glory, a film about the French Army during the First World War.

Barry Norman, the film critic, said last night: "This has come as a real shock, especially because Mr Kubrick has only just finished his new film. There was no suggestion that there was anything awry. He was an extraordinary filmmaker. He was incredibly meticulous in all his films, which took him an average of two to three years to make."

He added: "I knew him a little. He was a very reclusive man and refused to fly. That's why his films were made in Britain — even Full Metal Jacket, set in Vietnam, was filmed in this country. He was a great Anglophile and lived here since the 1960s."

Michael Winner, the director, said Mr Kubrick was a reclusive because he "believed the world outside was really like in A Clockwork Orange. He saw no reason to leave the house." Mr Winner said he had known Mr Kubrick for 30 years and had never known him to suffer ill health.

Sadly, he had been about to invite Mr Kubrick to receive this year's lifetime achievement award from the Directors' Guild of Great Britain. "The loss to the world of cinema is incalculable," Mr Winner said. "He will be remembered as one of the greatest geniuses since cinema evolved."

Mark Bailey, spokesman for the British Film Institute, said: "This is a huge loss to the film-making community. He was one of the landmark directors of the century who helped to define cinema."

Despite his quality, there are actors who loathe him. John Baxter, his biographer, said of Mr Kubrick: "Actors are drawn to him because of his undoubted skills and mystique, but they only work for him once."

Kirk Douglas who worked with him on Spartacus called him a "cold bastard". Harvey Keitel walked out of production on Eyes Wide Shut, citing "artistic differences".

Cinematic odyssey, Page 3  
Obituary, page 23



Kubrick won eight Oscars from ten feature films

Manchester United football club were in mourning yesterday for Dennis Viollet, their former captain and most prolific championship goal scorer, who died at his home in Florida of a brain tumour, aged 65.

A survivor of the Munich air disaster in February 1958, Viollet set Manchester United's championship goal-scoring record, with 32 goals in the 1959-60 season.

Viollet was capped three times for England. In 291

## United mourn

games he scored 178 goals for United, before being transferred in 1961 to Stoke where he made another 182 appearances, scoring 59 times.

Subsequently, he played in the United States for the Baltimore Bays, then returned to Britain to play in Northern Ireland for Linfield. He acted as coach to Preston and Crewe before finishing his career with the Washington Diplomats.

Sport, page 40

## Southgate gets £800,000 pay-off

Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of the Royal Opera House, is to receive £800,000 from EMI, the music publishing and recording group, for standing down as its chairman with a year of his contract to run.

Page 48

## Newcastle win

Newcastle won through to the FA Cup semi-finals beating Everton 4-1. The holders, Arsenal, will meet Chelsea or Manchester United. Pages 25, 29

## Heroic bobby in New York shoot-out

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A BRITISH policeman on holiday in America became the hero of a New York crime drama at the weekend when he dodged a bullet to catch two bandits in central Manhattan.

Howard Groves, 41, a deputy inspector in the Metropolitan Police, intervened when he and his girlfriend, Rachel Dougie, left their hotel on Saturday morning.

The couple saw the two men trying to rob a worker opening a shop. They pistol-whipped their victim but failed to get any cash. "I felt I had to do something," Inspector Groves told a local newspaper. "I couldn't just walk away."

As the gunmen tried to make their escape, Inspector Groves sent Miss Dougie back into the hotel for help while he and the hotel clerk followed the two. The robbers spotted the Briton, who is 6ft 2in, and the clerk on their tail and one of them fired a shot.

"As soon as I saw the flash, I saw the cop down on the floor," the hotel clerk said. "That's when I thought I better get down too."

As police began to arrive, Inspector Groves flagged down a squad car, flashed his Metropolitan Police identification card and joined the search.

"It made me think we were in an American movie," he said. "There was a sea of policemen, and they were all heavily armed."

The police caught up with the suspects at a subway station where one of them fled on to the tracks. But Inspector Groves suddenly found himself confronted by the other and wrestled him to the ground, grabbing a 9mm pistol from the man's belt.

Cedric Reid, 36, was arrested and charged with attempted robbery, assault and weapons possession.

Inspector Groves confessed that he was a bit shocked by the sudden call to duty. "I've never been fired at," he said.

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# IMF praises Brown's 'skilful' economic dexterity

Roland Watson and Graham Searjeant on the annual health check of the economy

GORDON BROWN received a pre-Budget fillip yesterday when the International Monetary Fund praised his "skilful management" of the economy and predicted that Britain would emerge virtually unscathed from a "short-lived" downturn.

The IMF, the world's economic watchdog, said the Chancellor's policy of setting clear public targets for the economy had helped the UK keep a lid on inflation while sustaining growth. It was an approach which "could offer useful lessons for other advanced and developing

countries", said the Washington-based body.

In its annual health check on the UK economy, the IMF predicted that growth in 1999 would dip to 0.8 per cent, slightly below Mr Brown's one per cent target, with unemployment rising to five per cent from 4.7 per cent.

But IMF officials expect inflation to hit the Chancellor's 2.5 per cent target, down from 2.6 per cent.

They also see a clear case for the Bank of England resuming its recent run of interest rate cuts from the current 5.5 per cent, "to avoid an excessive weakening of economic activity".

Although the IMF concedes that momentum will slow this year, its report states: "The soundness of past policies has left fiscal and especially monetary policies well placed to deal promptly and decisively with

developments." Mr Brown is expected to use the IMF report as evidence that an imminent soft landing will allow him to launch a "new economic platform" for the UK.

In a package billed as a Budget for "jobs, enterprise and the family", the Chancellor is expected to unveil a range of tax cuts for both the unemployed and low paid, as well as for wealthy entrepreneurs, especially in the high-tech sector.

Mr Brown is expected to grab headlines by setting a date for the introduction of his much-trailed 10p starting rate of tax, designed to help the low-paid. He also has in his sights the phased abolition of mortgage tax relief, Miras, and the taxing of child benefit for higher earners.

Mr Brown was still finalising the details yesterday, but the Budget's "green" measures were believed to

include a cut in road tax of up to £50 for small, fuel-efficient cars and a paving of the way for a carbon tax on industry.

The Chancellor can afford to offer concessions to favoured groups while still appearing responsible because his revenue has been unexpectedly buoyant and because he is already committed to heavy real increases in duty on petrol and tobacco over and above adjustments for inflation.

Leading article, page 21

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Nott leads Hague's euro fight

Sir John Nott, the Defence Secretary during the Falklands war, has been recruited by William Hague to marshal the case for rejecting the euro.

Sir John will chair the Conservatives' commission charged with presenting the positive case for the UK to remain outside the single currency. Mr Hague will formally introduce Sir John when at the launch today of the commission, which will be asked to examine the potential constitutional and economic opportunities open to the country outside the euro zone.

The move reflects caution in Tory high command that the party's case against the euro will be weakened if it relies solely on negative arguments.

### Heads cautious on A-level reform

Schools should refuse to implement A-level reforms until universities show that they will award degree places on the basis of the new curriculum, head teachers are to be told. Proposals are being finalised for students to take five subjects in their first year in the sixth-form, but the Secondary Heads Association says schools cannot afford to offer five per pupil, and it queries whether the new system will be of sufficient depth.

### Air hostess takes legal action

An air hostess who was slashed with a vodka bottle by a passenger is taking legal action against her former employer. Fauna Weir has joined a rival airline since the attack on an Airtours charter last October, after she asked a man to stop smoking. The case is believed to centre on Miss Weir's sick leave and her employment with the airline after the incident. Airtours declined to comment on the legal action.

### Soldiers held over Nazi link

Two soldiers, one from The Parachute Regiment, who are suspected of links to the violent neo-Nazi group Combat 18, were released on bail after being questioned by police and military investigators. Fourteen homes were raided across the country as part of a year-long investigation by police. Scotland Yard said the searches were carried out under a section of the Public Order Act 1986 that covers acts intended to cause race hate.

### Man's best friend visits Ernie Wise

The comedian Ernie Wise, 73, has been reunited with his dog Molly, a two-year-old Scottie, in England after being discharged from hospital in Florida. Doreen Wise, his wife, said from the couple's home in Maldenhead, Berkshire, that he was on the mend after his return in an air ambulance on Wednesday. Mr Wise underwent a triple heart bypass operation in a Fort Lauderdale hospital in January.

## Ministers plan to shake up divorce laws

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are to go ahead with plans to introduce compulsory "information meetings" for people intending divorce after research found that the controversial sessions could save thousands of marriages.

The Lord Chancellor is expected to announce within weeks a date next year for implementing the main elements of the Family Law Act 1996, which will scrap the "quickie" divorce and bring in a one-year "cooling off" period.

There has been widespread debate over the feasibility of the compulsory meetings, which will offer couples marriage guidance as well as advice on how to proceed with a divorce. But three substantial sets of research findings show that they can help save marriages.

The findings, drawn from 14 pilot projects conducted over the past two years, show that nearly one in five people take up the offer of a meeting with a marriage counsellor, which is free to those who qualify under a means test. Sixty per cent of those decided to go ahead with counselling, half of them with their partners.

The research adds credibility to the main aim of the legislation as promoted by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the pre-

vious Lord Chancellor, which is to "save saveable marriages".

The pilot projects also found that, despite initial scepticism about the benefits of the meetings, more than 90 per cent of people said that they were useful. One researcher said: "We have enough evidence to say that these individual meetings can work, people do appreciate them. So the Government could go ahead and after that decide on whether fine-tuning is needed."

Under the Family Law Act, couples will have to attend an information meeting at least three months before they start divorce proceedings.

Officials have been studying whether they could amend the Act to allow for group meetings, or to tailor the meetings to those who wanted solely counselling or information, but ministers are believed to have decided that they do not want to delay the implementation of the act any further.

One Government official said: "If we start to introduce more and more changes... by the time it would take to do this, there is an argument that it is probably not worth doing."

The pilot projects have been run by organizations such as Relate or by family mediation

and marriage guidance groups. Their findings are being analysed by Professor Jan Walker at Newcastle University's Centre for Family Studies, and will be published this summer. Another study is investigating the cost of providing the information meetings, but no figures are available so far.

The research has also gone to the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Board on Family Law under Sir Thomas Boyd-Carpenter, which has been set up to oversee implementation of the Act.

The implementation of the Family Law Act amounts to the biggest shake-up of divorce law in decades. A main aim is to encourage couples to settle disputes over children and finances amicably and outside the courts.

Divorce disputes last year cost taxpayers £61 million in legal aid, and the Act will encourage greater use of mediation, which will be free for couples who qualify for legal aid. The Act will also scrap the present "fault"-based divorce laws and bring in a 12-month "cooling off" period for couples — 18 months for those with children.

In general divorces will not be granted until arrangements about children and finances have been settled.



Ready for a tour of Britain: Monica Lewinsky arriving at Heathrow Airport yesterday

## Lewinsky fails to win friends

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

AS Monica Lewinsky embarks on a British charm offensive today, she can only hope she has more success rehabilitating her image in Essex and Sheffield than she has managed at home.

The former White House trainee flew into London last night ready to begin a lengthy book-signing tour with an appearance at Harrods. In America, opinion polls showed that viewers were unimpressed by the story she told in her television interview with Barbara Walters, intended as the chief gamble in a campaign

to win sympathy and understanding. But a poll published in *Time* today shows that 72 per cent of those interviewed have an unfavourable impression of her, a negligible drop from the 78 per cent who had such a view of her back in September when the Starr Report was published. Only 15 per cent think well of her and 74 per cent think she is enjoying the attention of her media blitz. A *Newsweek* poll showed that her image had improved with 8 per cent of Americans.

Whether or not she is liked in Britain, she will be hard to avoid. Her 18-day tour will take her to 19 bookshops from Bristol to Edinburgh including the Lakeside shop-

ping centre at Thurrock, Essex, to promote Andrew Morton's *Monica's Story*.

The first excerpts were published yesterday of a book by George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's former aide, about his time in the White House. "If I knew everything then that I know now, I wouldn't have worked for him," he said in an interview. "He has accomplished more than I ever thought humanly possible. But he lost the battle with himself, tarnished his presidency and all of us associated with it."

□ Hillary Clinton will not accompany the President on a goodwill tour of Central America this week because of a recurring back injury.

## Doctors' mistakes cost £67m

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAMAGES totalling £67 million were paid to patients last year for mistakes or negligence by doctors insured through the Medical Defence Union, which represents about half of the 130,000 registered practitioners in Britain.

In a review published today, the MDU says doctors are practising in an increasingly litigious environment and that claims against them have been rising at 15 per cent a year.

"We see no evidence of a fall in clinical standards," the report says. "Instead we see common themes arising out of claims. These are related to failures in procedures and systems such as poor clinical records, training and supervision issues and failures in using, checking and maintaining equipment and procedures."

The report focuses on the £5.5 million paid out for surgical errors, including a case in which a surgeon left a pair of forceps inside a patient after an operation.

## Goodwill aid to clean up armies of Third World

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

OVERSEAS aid is to be used for the first time to back military reforms in Third World countries. Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, is to announce details tomorrow of her plan to help to eliminate brutal, corrupt and ill-trained forces that blight the lives of millions.

Britain's £2.4 billion aid budget will not be used for equipping the armies with military hardware, training of soldiers or military planning. The aim is to introduce human-rights training and to improve the accountability of armed forces to a country's civilian authority.

The Government believes that bloated and repressive security forces are blocking the development of the world's poorest countries. Without action, ministers believe that British cash aid for a new road or a bridge could be wasted. Miss Short will tell the Institute of Defence Studies in London that unless these military

forces face stricter controls, they will become the "seedbeds" for the next round of coups.

Her department is engaged in detailed work with the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office to bring greater stability to Sierra Leone, helping to draft a new constitution and working out the proper relationships between its defence ministry and the new army.

The new policy, fronted by the Government to prevent the involvement of children in war, to reduce the proliferation of small arms and light weaponry and to build up peace-keeping support in all the developing countries.

Last night Paul Eavis, director of the aid think-tank Safer World, welcomed the new policy. However, he called for a curb on arms sales. "We can't be arguing for restraint on military spending on the one hand and promote arms sales on the other."



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## Hague's 'kitchen table' Cabinet

Continued from Page 1 sharp contrast to the centralism of the Thatcher-Major era. Mr Hague's aim is to reverse current opinion polls and focus groups which suggest that fewer than one-in-five voters believe the Tories have policies to deal with the issues that worry them most.

The strategy was outlined in a 50-minute presentation by Mr Hague at the last Shadow Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. His colleagues were said to be stunned by the force of his presentation and the blunt manner in which he laid out the new strategy. The Tory leader told them that his "kitchen table conservatism" was not an optional approach but a "compulsory purchase". He also announced that from

this point onwards "promotion and reward" to and within the Shadow Cabinet would depend exclusively on the effectiveness of individuals in meeting the new challenges. Of these the argument that the Tories should "concede and move on" is the most significant.

Some Shadow Cabinet members are known to be frustrated that they have not been allowed to float new ideas until the cumbersome machinery for reassessing policy set up by Peter Lilley, the Tory Deputy Leader, has slowly chewed them over.

The move also represents a return to Mr Hague's original emphasis when he first became party leader in June 1997.

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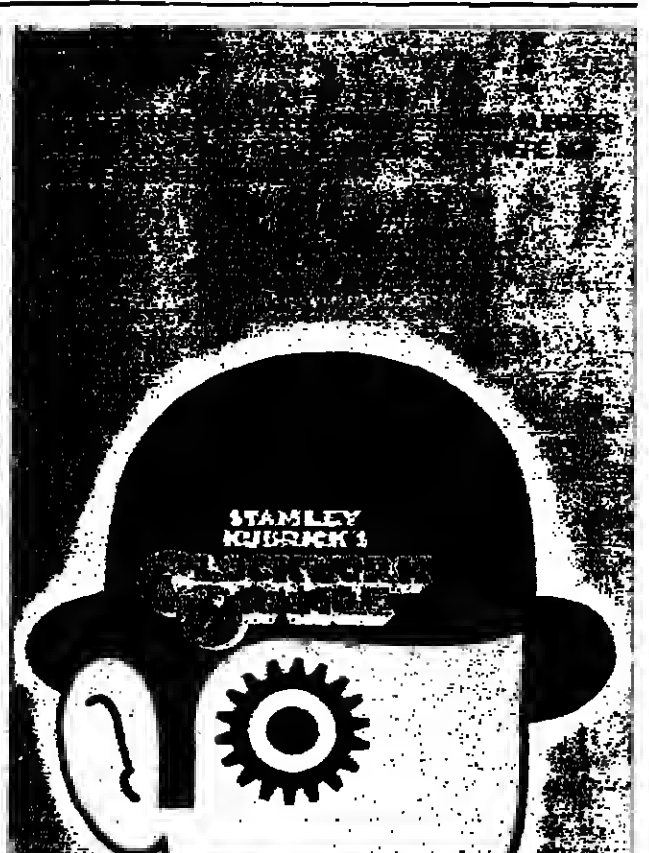
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Big screen milestones: Jack Nicholson slashing his way through *The Shining*; a scene from the beautiful but impenetrable *2001: A Space Odyssey*; and a poster for the subversive *A Clockwork Orange*, which is still banned in Britain

# Kubrick: a cinematic odyssey

James Christopher celebrates the career of Stanley Kubrick

WIDELY acclaimed for his intellectual ambitions and his fierce perfectionism, Stanley Kubrick has occupied a unique niche in the film world. While his films have dealt with the threat of dehumanisation — men unhinged by war, or the toys of science — he himself has become increasingly obsessed with the arthouse techniques that are the hallmarks of his great films, often at the expense of character and emotions.

Some argue that the lack of such warmth in his most important films was fatal to his claim as a great artist. But few can argue against the fantastic achievements of his lavishly stylish camera work.

In 1961, Kubrick moved to England in search of greater independence from the studios. But he returned the following year for location work on *Lolita*, a controversial reworking of Nabokov's novel.

It raised hackles. What the critics didn't appreciate was the way in which Kubrick was able to sprinkle the bitter cynicism at the heart of the film with a healthy dose of the black humour that had characterised some of his earlier works.

His penchant for the macabre was perhaps most brilliantly realised in *Dr Strangelove*, in which he treated the possibility of nuclear annihilation as an almighty grim joke. He couldn't have cast a better actor than Peter Sellers as the tight-lipped RAF officer, the US president, and the Nazi-like scientist. The result is scary and nightmarish, and far more effective in its portrait of insanity and scream for disarmament than any number of worthy Cold War documentaries.

By this stage it was clear that ide-

as excited Kubrick more than celluloid personalities. *2001: A Space Odyssey* sharply polarised critical opinion.

To some, this sci-fi journey into humanity's future was an over-blown, impenetrable conundrum. To others, particularly Kubrick's younger fans, it was the ultimate audio-visual trip — a psychedelic experience in tune with the drug culture. Its breathtaking photography and the Academy Award-winning special effects guaranteed its classic status.

*A Clockwork Orange*, cited as the year's best film by the New York Film Critics, is a striking, visually brilliant film that provides a chilling vision of a world dominated by anarchic delinquents. Malcolm McDowell's bad boy reputation

was cemented by his performance as Alex, the leader of the Droogs, a gang who memorably killed a middle-class professor's wife with a giant phallus. It became a cult the moment its British release was mysteriously pulled by Kubrick himself.

Since then, Kubrick has laboured, somewhat unfairly, under the over-hyped subversive legacy it has engendered.

Kubrick was a meticulous filmmaker by any standards. In his later films, he took months, sometimes years, to prepare a single film. He took 300 days to shoot *Barry Lyndon*, another visually magnificent piece of work, but an often slow adaptation of this minor Thackeray novel.

Equally exasperating for many

Kubrick fans was his adaptation of Stephen King's *The Shining*.

Here Jack Nicholson slashes his way through a snow-bound hotel. Many didn't think much of Kubrick's odd excursion into the horror-fantasy genre. But the sheer emptiness of the film, with its surreal nightmarish angles, was as disturbing as the psychopath himself.

With *Full Metal Jacket*, a dour adaptation of Gustave Hasford's novel, Kubrick returned to the military arena.

His Vietnam film is a harrowing account of the dehumanising effects of military training.

Few directors have ever divided critical opinion like Stanley Kubrick. His critics called him pretentious, fussy, intractable. But to many others he is a unique artist with a personal vision matched only by his brilliant way with a camera.

## Final film that meant everyone had to wait

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

As a stunned Hollywood mourned Stanley Kubrick yesterday, admirers were left wondering if the extraordinary exertions of his final film may have hastened his death.

With few details released about the film-maker's final hours, attention in the city where he was revered as an icon of the post-war era focussed on the marathon production schedule of *Eyes Wide Shut*, a psychological drama starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman in which Kubrick's perfectionism reportedly found new extremes.

The director worked ceaselessly for 19 months on a closed set near his St Albans home to create the sexually explicit tale of two psychiatrists married to each other but each involved in affairs with their patients. Given unlimited time by Warner Brothers — a sign of respect afforded to no other working director — Kubrick filmed for six times longer than the average studio project requires, exposing a million feet of celluloid and spending \$65 million (about £40 million), much of which went on accommodating actors in expensive hotels as they waited for scenes to be shot.

Harvey Keitel had to be replaced by Sydney Pollack because after two months of waiting he had to leave to fulfill another commitment. Kidman worked for months at a time, waiting for barely 12 months of the shoot.

Only Kubrick was constantly busy, rehearsing for days for indi-



Kidman: she waited for months in admiration

vidual scenes, according to Alan Cumming, the British actor, and thinking nothing of shooting 60 takes to be sure one would meet his exacting requirements in the editing room. Reports of frayed tempers and expiring patience leaked frequently from the set but Cruise and Kidman have never wavered in their public admiration for his workaholic methods.

The film is to be released in the America on July 16. Warner Bros announced last year. Its gestation will have been short compared with Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which took four years to film. But its premiere will be an occasion unique in Hollywood history: an unprecedented merging of hype and mourning at which the star of the occasion will be absent.

## Career that opened the eyes of filmgoers



Lolita: introduction to controversy

1950-1: After working as a photojournalist for Look magazine, Stanley Kubrick made two short documentaries: *Day of the Fight* and *Flying Padre*, which he sold to RKO-Pathé for a modest profit. He did almost everything except act.

1954: *Fear and Desire* Kubrick's first feature was a virtually abstract war story made with money he borrowed from relatives and friends.

1956: *Killer's Kiss* A stylish black-and-white noir thriller shot on a \$75,000 budget. Moody story about a down-and-out boxer who saves a nightclub dancer from rape.

1958: *The Killing* Grim vision of human greed and deceit in the aftermath of a robbery.

1959: *Paths of Glory* Kubrick's first prestige movie is a critique of military hypocrisy. Kirk Douglas is establishing as the defender of condemned in no-man's-land.

1960: *Spartacus* Epic account of abortive slave revolt in Rome led by Kirk Douglas. All-star cast included Laurence Olivier and Charles Laughton.

1962: *Lolita* Kubrick first attracted wide controversy with portrayal of James Mason as the pedophile obsessed with Sue Lyon.

1964: *Dr Strangelove* or, How I Learned to

Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb Arguably Kubrick's most perfectly realised film. Scary and hilarious as it cynically follows the path to a nuclear annihilation, Peter Sellers' magnificent in several roles.

1968: *2001: A Space Odyssey* Beautiful, impenetrable science fiction movie about a computer that hijacks a space mission to Jupiter.

1971: *A Clockwork Orange* Brilliant, subversive film that colourfully exploited the debate on aversion therapy while reveling in the delinquent excesses of Malcolm McDowell and his droogs. Still banned in Britain.

1976: *Barry Lyndon* Triumph of technique over human content. Visually sumptuous journey of Thackeray's military hero through 18th-century Europe.

1980: *The Shining* Jack Nicholson slashes his way through a snowbound horror film whose tension is expertly exacerbated by the artfulness with which it is shot.

1987: *Full Metal Jacket* Kubrick's Vietnam movie, full of black irony, madness, and racial bigotry in the ranks of the US Marines. With Matthew Modine and Adam Baldwin.



Dr Strangelove: scary and hilarious

## Family burnt beyond recognition

BY PETER GLEESON, STUART TENDLER AND ANNIE FLURY

POLICE may need up to a week to properly identify the family of seven killed by an arsonist because of the severity of the blaze.

Yesterday police said that sophisticated techniques, including DNA testing, may have to be used to identify the two women who were killed, a 22-year-old man and three children. Police have now appealed for anyone who was near the three-storey house in the two hours before the fire to come forward. Scotland Yard said that officers were looking at a number of lines of inquiry but refused to comment further.

Detectives from the murder team have also spoken to neighbours of the family in Bellamy Road, Chingford, Essex, and questioned them about any links between members of the family and drugs. One neighbour, who refused to give

his name, said: "Police have been to the home before. This is a council estate and there are quite a few unsavoury characters about. But for God's sake, if someone's got a problem with someone else, let them sort it out between themselves. There's no need to bring an entire family into it."

Linda Lewis, 25, a next-door neighbour, said she would never forget the screams of the children and the sight of a woman at the window of the burning house pleading for help.

She said: "I heard screaming. I thought they were arguing. Then I heard the kids crying. I jumped out of bed and looked out of the window and I saw her screaming to me to help her."

"Then the screaming and crying had stopped. You couldn't see them any more."

Stunned neighbours and friends visited the eerie, charred remains of the family's home to pay their respects to those who had been killed and

more than 100 floral tributes were laid in front of the house. One large bouquet had been left from the firefighters who tackled the fire with a card which read: "Our deepest sympathy from all staff at Chingford Fire Station."

The fire is believed to have been started by someone who poured petrol through the letterbox and police have removed a red plastic petrol container found at the scene for forensic tests.

Four generations, including a boy aged two and twin four-year-old girls, died in the attack, all from smoke inhalation. Only one person, a 52-year-old grandfather, escaped the blaze. He suffered burns to his hands and was released from hospital yesterday.

Special prayers were said for the victims yesterday in local churches. Detective Superintendent James Moore Sutherland said: "This is a horrific attack on innocents. This is the worst I have seen in 31 years in the job."

## Minister to tackle anti-gay behaviour on and off pitch

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BANKS, the Sports Minister, is to head a concerted drive against homophobia in football that could result in new laws aimed at banishing anti-gay behaviour on and off the pitch.

The initiative could see players automatically sent off for homophobic abuse, in the same way that racist language has for the first time this season become a red-card offence.

Mr Banks made clear yesterday that he wanted to use the exchanges between two England internation-

als, Robbie Fowler and Graeme Le Saux, a week ago to force football clubs and the game's authorities to face up to the issue. "We have a problem and I think we should use this particular incident to have an adult discussion about homophobia in sport," he said.

Although he wanted to see what suggestions the game's governing bodies and players' representatives came up with initially, he said that he did not rule out government legislation at a future date.

"This is the start, we are at the be-

ginning of a process. Let's see whether we can resolve this and see what steps we need to take before we decide if we need to go to the argument of legislation," he told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*.

Mr Banks, talking to *The Times*, pointed out that Fowler's part in last weekend's incident, which Le Saux, who is married with a baby daughter, complained about, amounted to homophobic incitement and have constituted a breach of the peace had it happened outside a football ground.

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# TV 'sting' puts rare bird in custody row

Park duped into selling macaw fears for species' future, write

Peter Gleeson and Audrey Magee

A RARE Illiger macaw is at the centre of a custody dispute after being bought by a bogus company in a television "sting" that has backfired on the programme-makers.

The parrot, named Pimpinel, was sold by one of Britain's leading wildlife parks after it was led to believe the bird would go to Ireland to be bred with a mate of the same species.

The programme was organised by Carlton Television, which believed that Pimpinel was heading for a leading parrot sanctuary in Ireland. Instead, the bird is now being kept in a house in Dublin by a former circus worker who was hired by the programme-makers.

Pimpinel is with a mate but its partner is a female Hahn's macaw, a different species, which has angered con-

servationists. Despite a ruling by the Broadcasting Standards Commission that Paradise Park in Cornwall was unfairly duped into selling Pimpinel, the park has been unable to get the bird back.

The parrot tug-of-war follows a Carlton documentary in October 1997 on the way zoos dispose of surplus animals. 20-20 Television, the programme-makers, paid Ray Cimino, a self-styled Dublin animal rights activist, to pose as a dealer for a company called Wildlife Direct. Most zoos refused to deal with him but Paradise Park was one of two organisations which sent a list of available animals.

Cimino, described in the programme as a "leading Irish animal consultant", paid £400 for the bird, a native of north-east Brazil and Argentina, in a secretly filmed deal. Paradise



Illiger macaws are in danger of extinction

Park has built up a reputation as a major Cornwall tourist attraction and has 462 birds of 126 species.

Mike Reynolds, who has owned the park since 1973, complained to the Broadcasting Standards Commission that he only sold the bird because he was given firm assurances about its welfare.

In December, the Commission agreed the programme had been unfair in several key respects. Its ruling stated: "Par-

adise Park's track record suggests that they were acting in good faith on the information they had been given in relation to the sale of the parrot. Although they may have been naïve in taking their dealings with Wildlife Direct at face value, there was no suggestion of any illegal behaviour or cruelty."

Mr Reynolds, the founder of the World Parrot Trust, a body aimed at helping to save over 30 different endangered parrot species, has now switched his energies to getting Pimpinel back. But despite twice writing to Mr Cimino offering to buy the parrot back, it remains in Dublin.

Mr Reynolds said: "We want it back. I want to get it out of this mess. Mr Cimino has paired it up with a bird of a different species. He's about to breed hybrids, which is not a good idea."

Carlton, which was criticised in January for showing faked scenes in a documentary on the Colombian drugs trade, has consistently maintained that the bird was living in a



Ray Cimino insists that Pimpinel is better off in his two-bedroom house in Dublin than at Paradise Park

top parrot sanctuary in Ireland, housed at the Irish Parrot Rescue Trust. In evidence to the broadcasting watchdog, Carlton said: "The parrot is in a substantially improved physical and mental condition since its purchase by the programme-makers."

But Cimino says he is keeping the two-year-old parrot in his two-bedroom house in a

run-down part of Dublin's north inner city. In keeping with the area, Mr Cimino has changed the parrot's name to "The Gurnier", Dublin slang for a troublesome youth.

Mr Cimino insists that the parrot is perfectly healthy and happy. He refuses to return the bird, which measures about 18 inches from head to the tip of its tail, to Paradise

Park until Mr Reynolds guarantees that the bird will be found an alternative home, inspected and approved by the Irishman. He said: "They want the parrot but they have no legal claim or title over it. I paid them for it and they were prepared to take the money."

He dismisses Mr Reynolds's claims that the parrot needs to be with another Illiger Macaw

for mating and companionship as "utter nonsense." But Tony Juniper of Friends of the Earth, a leading parrot expert, recommended that the bird be returned to England.

He said: "A domestic house in Dublin, compared to Paradise Park, is not an alternative. The bird is vulnerable to extinction. To have it with a different species is not sensible."

## 'Headless man' in legal threat to biographer

By Gillian Harris  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN alleged to be at the centre of one of Britain's most sensational divorce scandals is said to be threatening legal action against a biographer who intends to reveal his identity in a book later this year.

Michael Thornton, who has been working on his biography of the late Duchess of Argyll for 13 years, has received more than a dozen letters from lawyers acting for the man whom he believes appeared in photographs used in court as evidence of the duchess's "multiple adultery".

He was one of 88 men cited by the 11th Duke of Argyll as his wife's lovers. They included three members of the Royal Family, two Cabinet ministers and three actors. During the hearing in 1963, the most fevered speculation surrounded the identity of the "headless man", who featured in two shots which cut him off at the neck but showed the duchess performing a sex act while wearing nothing but a string of pearls.

Mr Thornton, 58, who became a close friend of the duchess, says that he is prepared to name the man in his book, *Argyll versus Argyll*, to



The duchess's husband said she had 88 lovers

be published by Michael Joseph. He told *Scotland on Sunday* newspaper: "He persists in denying it but I have the evidence now."

Mr Thornton said that he had been able to confirm the man's name through material from private files belonging to Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, who died last week. Lord Denning, who conducted an inquiry into the Profumo scandal in the 1960s, discovered political and aristocratic connections with the Argyll case.

The Argyll family has always declined to comment on the divorce. The duchess died in London in 1993.

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# New magazine for women not the write stuff

New journal is said to be outdated and unfortunately named, report Alex O'Connell and Imogen O'Rourke

A MAGAZINE for women writers that has received £70,000 in lottery funding has been criticised by the female literary for its "unfortunate" title and "outdated" manifesto.

*Msexia* was founded on the premise that there is something rotten in the state of publishing. Footnotes beneath the magazine's editorial explain that "Dyslexia is a difficulty, more prevalent in men, with reading and spelling. *Msexia* is a difficulty, more prevalent in women, with getting published."

The sickness metaphor is extended throughout the magazine — writers are called PWDs (Persons with Writing Disorders) and a Dr Ingrid K fronts a "Word Surgery", to which women can send their writing for criticism.

*Msexia*, which is launched today, promises to provide information, guidance and inspiration for published and unpublished authors and improve the quality and standing of women's literature.

But women writers, including Fay Weldon, have argued in the past that niche publishing should be careful not to "perpetuate victimisation and complaint". Although the magazine may be praised by the

*Spare Rib* generation, many women in publishing are puzzled by its tone and title. *Msexia*'s guest editor, Michele Roberts, who has chosen a selection of erotic fiction for the first issue, said: "The title is most unfortunate and implies that being a woman is a kind of disability."

Claire Rayner, the broadcaster and writer, laughed when told of the magazine's name. "It is a ridiculous title and is going to mean the very opposite of what the editors think it is," she said.

Beryl Bainbridge, the win-

ner of this year's WH Smith literary prize, was put off by Dr Ingrid K's column, which aims to stamp out readers' clichés and rewrite sloppy copy. "This is a cliché," Bainbridge said, pointing to Dr K's phrase "model wife". The novelist also took exception to a line that referred to the tendons at the base of a woman's "smooth throat".

"If her throat was really smooth, she wouldn't know about her tendons," she said. A woman literary agent who asked not to be named said: "We have been there and done that and now women are just getting on with things. I don't think they are cowering at home too scared to take their manuscript out from under the mattress, as the tone of this magazine implies."

*Msexia*'s editor, Debbie Taylor, a former editor of *New Internationalist*, hit upon the idea for the magazine while working on an annual journal of women's writing. She was shocked to see that there were more than 3,000 submissions, but only 600 subscribers. At the same time, she noted, *Writer's News*, a practical guide, had a readership of 18,000.

"I realised that people didn't so much want to read avant-

garde fiction as get to see their own work published," she said. Ms Taylor told funding bodies that the publishing world was dominated by men and that women were less confident about approaching publishers.

"They tend to hesitate before sending a manuscript unless

they think it's very very good," she said.

Ms Taylor received a three-year grant from Arts 4 Every-one, combined with funding from the lottery and Northern Arts. By 2001, she hopes, *Msexia* will be able to pay its own way on subscriptions.

But Sally O'Sullivan, the founder of *Cabal*, said that



Paper ceiling: Debbie Taylor says that women hesitate to send manuscripts to publishers

Ms Taylor had a tough job ahead and that she would be interested to see how the magazine's circulation developed.

"Successful writers aren't giving advice about how to write. It is such a lonely business that it is quite hard to be fascinating about it," Ms O'Sullivan said.

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Ms Taylor had a tough job ahead and that she would be interested to see how the magazine's circulation developed.



Lewis and Tolkien had weekly meetings at the pub but frequently popped in for an impromptu drink

## Oxford pub keeps literary tradition alive

BY HANNAH BETTS

THE Oxford pub where J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis held weekly literary meetings is backing *The Times* Free Books For Schools scheme in an attempt to create a new literary tradition.

The Eagle and Child, known to generations of students as the Bird and Baby, hosted the Lewis-Tolkien meetings between 1946 and 1967. The group, known as the Inklings, held official meetings every Tuesday lunchtime but frequently popped in for impromptu drinking sessions. C.S. Lewis's chair remains in the bar and is Oxford's prime target for tourist bottoms.

Several of Lewis's books, including *Brilliant Brains* and *Seven Years in the Desert*, are included in the Free Books For Schools scheme, which offers a range of titles in exchange for tokens from News International newspapers and Walkers snackfoods.

There has been speculation that passages from *The Hobbit* and the *Narnia* stories were composed in the Eagle and Child, inspired by a heady combination of alcohol and male bonding.

However Paul Yvill, the licensee, is wary of such claims. "They just got drunk a lot and talked nonsense — a tradition that is still going strong," he said.

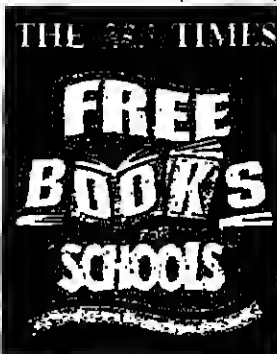
"But it was certainly their influence that made us decide that collecting tokens might help to generate the literary giants of the future." The

idea came from a regular customer who remembers the Inklings from his undergraduate days. The Eagle and Child has since collected more than 2,000 tokens for St Barnabas's in Jericho, a local school.

The campaign has been helped by the C.S. Lewis Society during its weekly meetings in the pub, and by the Inklings, a latter-day Inklings made up of literature dons, doctors and poets.

The Eagle and Child is also doing its bit to help an older generation of potential writers. In a forthcoming bar quiz, the pub is offering a prize of £1,000, matching the cost of first-year tuition fees.

Call 01753 9018 (office hours only) with your tales of token-collecting successes in the Free Books For Schools campaign. There is also a helpline for more information about the scheme itself on 0845 604 0312.



## Oxford's dead poets' society is resurrected

Robin Young reports on a reprieve for the best of British verse

THE apparently dead poets' society at Oxford University Press managed an almost miraculous resurrection yesterday.

*Oxford Poets*, the poetry list of 26 well-known versifiers that OUP had publicly condemned on the grounds that its sales had to be subsidised, will live on thanks to an agreement between the university and Carcanet Press, which specialises in poetry.

OUP is owned by Oxford University and makes about £6 million for the university each year, but the OUP

board of directors had decided that *Oxford Poets* was an unjustifiable drain on their revenues. OUP's core activity is described as "publishing of scholarly and educational work in pursuit of the university's objectives", and it began publishing contemporary poetry only in the 1960s.

Among the 26 poets currently published in the *Oxford Poets* list are Peter Porter, D.J. Enright, Fleur Ad-

cock, Thomas Kinsella, Michael Donaghy, Alice Oswald, Jo Shapcott and Jamie McKendrick.

The decision to abandon the publication of their efforts angered poets and their readers, including many eminent academics. Jon Stallworthy, the Oxford Professor of English Literature and editor of the *Oxford Book of War Poetry*, who is himself a Carcanet-published poet, accused the

OUP delegates of "an act of vandalism".

Now the OUP has agreed that an editorial board appointed by the university's English faculty and chaired by a faculty member will work with OUP and Carcanet to improve both the standard and the publishing returns of *Oxford Poets*.

Henry Reece, OUP's chief executive, denied that the deal with Carcanet

represented a change of heart, saying: "We have been trying to find a solution that keeps the poetry list together for the last six months. This promises to be an excellent partnership and will appeal to all those concerned about the widest possible dissemination of poetry."

Michael Schmidt, Carcanet's manager and editorial director, said: "It is a particular pleasure to play a part in the *Oxford Poets* list which, with Faber's, is the best list of contemporary poetry in English."

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# Paedophiles turn attention to East Europe

A GROWING number of British paedophiles, some just out of prison, are travelling to Eastern Europe to buy youngsters for the price of a take-away burger.

The sudden increase in activity comes after a clampdown by the authorities in Thailand and the Philippines, traditional haunts of child abusers.

Detectives say paedophiles have targeted Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, because it is only a few hours away and the police there are not yet geared up to deal with the sudden influx of offenders.

Scotland Yard believes paedophiles are travelling to Eastern Europe up to 700 times a year to abuse children of poverty-stricken parents, who will hand over their sons and daughters for food or drink. Police intelligence suggests that one paedophile can abuse up to 20 children in a single trip.

A former Radio 1 disc jockey is to appear in a Prague court this week on charges involving boys under 15, the age of consent there. Chris Denning, 57, was allegedly followed after leaving Britain by the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), which alerted the authorities in Prague. He denies the charges.

Prosecutions are rare because the men are difficult to track. Even though sex offenders in this country have to sign a sex register on their release from prison it does not stop them from travelling abroad.

And although the Sex Offenders Act of 1997 gave British authorities the ability to prosecute paedophiles for crimes committed abroad, there has not been a single prosecution. The Home Office says that is because it would "prefer that people be dealt with in the country where the crime has been committed. The police also say that it could be difficult to make sure that witnesses traveled to Britain to give evidence.

A former detective with the Paedophile Unit at Scotland Yard said: "We can stop football hooligans going abroad but not paedophiles. Poverty in the East European countries makes it a popular choice for them. The children are cheap."

One of Britain's most dangerous paedophiles is still being hunted by British police after disappearing on his release

**In Prague a child costs the price of a burger, and abusers are flooding in, writes Adam Fresco**

from prison in June 1997 without signing the Sex Offenders Register. He is believed to be in Eastern Europe.

Warwick Spinks, 34, served 30 months of a seven-year sentence for drugging and kidnapping a 14-year-old boy from Yorkshire and taking him to Amsterdam where he was sold to a gay brothel. The youngster was able to escape and alerted the authorities.

Described as the "Fid Fifer" of child molesters, on his release from prison he sent his probation officer a mocking postcard from Gatwick saying he was leaving the country. He can be sentenced in this country to six months imprisonment or a fine of up to £5,000 for not signing the register and letting police know his whereabouts.

Predatory paedophiles, so called because they will do anything and travel anywhere to get into a position whereby they can abuse children, have been abandoning their former haunts in the Far East. The authorities in the Philippines and Thailand are policing areas where paedophiles are known to congregate, making it harder for them to procure children. In July last year John Pidd, a 49-year-old Briton, was jailed for 14 years in the Philippines for abusing an eight-year-old boy.

Prague is much nearer, only two hours' flight away, and a few pounds goes a long way in the Czech Republic.

Wayne Smith, head of the NCIS Special Crime Unit, said: "Predatory paedophiles are very dangerous. They will go to extreme lengths to satisfy their desires. They do not see there is anything wrong with their activity."

"We make intelligence logs and last year we made 340 logs of individuals travelling abroad, although not necessarily different individuals. That is 20 per cent more travelling

through Europe abusing children than in 1997.

"Because we obviously don't always know when they are travelling the number could be as high as 600 or 700 instances of paedophiles travelling abroad," he said.

Paedophiles often exchange information and police believe they have even tried to organise conventions to discuss the best places to go and ways of avoiding the authorities. Mr Smith admitted that there was worrying evidence to show the number of paedophiles travelling abroad was increasing.

"It is a terrible picture. These are particularly dangerous people. The introduction of the Sex Offenders Act did not stop them abusing. They will offend, they need to offend, and unfortunately they will need to travel in order to satisfy their demands."



The futuristic Leila Pearce design, modelled by Victoria Jacobson, another student

# Secondhand clothes are fit for Caprice

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

CAPRICE, the supermodel who favours Versace lace dresses, is to stroll down the catwalk in a secondhand outfit recycled from a charity shop.

Fashion students from across the country have created a range of designs from materials such as transistor radios, bin-bags, quilted bedspreads and hessian sacks for a competition run by The Cancer Research Campaign. The judges include Jeff Banks, the designer and former *Clothes Show* presenter, and Caprice, who will model the winning design.


More than 200 students entered the competition, which is based on the theme Metamorphosis. Fifty-six have made it through the regional heats to have their creations modelled by professionals on Thursday afternoon at the American International University in West London. The winner will spend two weeks gaining work experience with Mr Banks and Red

or Dead, the fashion designers. Wayne Hemingway, chairman of Red or Dead, which began by recycling second-hand clothes and remodelled shoes in Camden Market, said: "This is something very close to our hearts."

Claudia McVie, south-west regional director of the charity and one of the judges, said: "The recycling fashion show is the perfect way to promote recycling. It allows us to introduce the great value for money our charity shops represent."

Among the entrants is Leila Pearce, 27, taking a degree in fashion and textile design at the University of the West of England in Bristol. She created leggings and a corset from ski-wear and a transistor radio circuit board, and a silver head-dress from rubber, elastic and LED lights. She said: "The design is based on transformer toys. It is looking at the future when people and technology will live harmoniously together."

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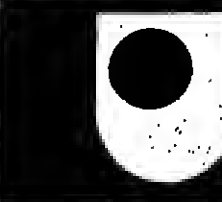
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# Ashdown calls party to action for final time

By JAMES LANDALE AND JASON ALLARDYCE

PADDY ASHDOWN urged the Liberal Democrats to have no limit to their ambitions for power as he set his party on an election footing for the last time as leader yesterday.

In his last speech to a national party gathering, he encouraged his activists gathered in Edinburgh to redouble their efforts in campaigning for this summer's local, regional and European polls.

And despite the recognition among many of the party faithful that yesterday marked the end of an era, Mr Ashdown

mentioned his 11-year tenure only once.

In a pragmatic and unsentimental speech, he also delivered a thinly veiled warning to his successor — that he or she should maintain the party's current strategy of limited co-operation with Labour. The Liberal Democrats, he said, could not have an impact from the touchline. "We can only do it as players on the field."

Mr Ashdown set out his party's terms for a possible coalition with Labour in the forth-

coming Scottish parliament. If Labour was not interested in investing more in education, they should "not even bother to pick up the phone", he said.

In a speech lasting just under an hour, Mr Ashdown attacked Labour's uncertainty and unwillingness to be bold. "Time and again this Government ducks the really big issues," he said.

"The Prime Minister will tell Richard and Judy what to do about Glenn Hoddle but he won't tell us what he'll do about the euro."

Labour, he said, boasted that it roared like a lion. "But far too frequently it squeaks like a mouse. I do not doubt new Labour's good intentions but I despair at their lack of ambition. We can do better. We can be better."

The party was embarked on a "voyage to a new political world" created by the devolved Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly, the introduction of the euro and other constitutional reforms.

But he gave warnings: "The changes we have begun could lead to a more open, more tolerant, more liberal Britain or they could be just another brief fluttering of hope, quick-



Paddy Ashdown speaking at the Liberal Democrats' conference in Edinburgh, where he urged members to put no limit to their ambitions for power

## Just don't mention that contest

By JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FOR the Liberal Democrat faithful gathered in Edinburgh a helpful badge had been included in the conference pack. "My vote — up for grabs," it said simply. The accompanying instructions declared: "Wear this badge around the bars and make sure you get spotted by one of those MPs who 'isn't standing for leader'."

That was one of the few public, albeit tacit, acknowledgements that this weekend was a leadership contest that dare not speak its name. Officially no one is campaigning, positioning, or lobbying to

become Paddy Ashdown's successor. All MPs — potential candidates and their footsoldiers — have been firmly instructed to keep their mouths shut. Two new boys who foolishly allowed their allegiances to become public last week have been expelled by Mr Ashdown. Nothing they were told, should divert the party's attention from the local, regional and European elections in May and June.

Nothing should happen until Mr Ashdown formally announces his intention to stand down on June 11. Nominations must be in by June 28. Voting will not start until mid-July. Mr Ashdown, they emphasise, is going to be party leader un-

til August 9, when his successor is announced. That is five months away.

The truth is that everyone at the spring conference was talking about nothing but the leadership. Potential candidates were seen buying endless rounds of drinks late into the night at the conference hotel. The conference hall mysteriously filled when young pretenders delivered speeches. Hypothetical election scenarios of extraordinary complexity were doing the rounds.

But amid the electioneering, Mr Ashdown was mischievous to the last. "I have changed my mind," he told the members. After a pause, he added: "Only joking, but what a lot of white faces there are."

### PADDY'S PARTY PIECES

- New Labour boasts that it roars like a lion. But far too frequently it squeaks like a mouse. — Edinburgh 1999
- We must search for the heroes inside ourselves. — Nottingham 1996
- You cannot agree with a blank sheet of paper. — Glasgow 1995
- Let me tell you what I fear after the next General Election. I fear a Government empty of ideas and devoid of reforming radicalism. I fear a Government that continues to avoid a whole-hearted commitment to our European future. — Brighton 1994
- There is no glass ceiling for the Liberal Democrats. — Blackpool 1993
- There is an old rhyme that sums up Labour. Something borrowed, a lot that's blue, too much that's old and nothing new. — Bournemouth 1991
- Labour is the music of Dire Straits, the Tories are the music of Simple Minds, but we are the New Kids on the Block. — Bournemouth 1991
- Where Labour betray Britain as well as themselves is in their failure of courage: the weakness, the narrowness and the timidity of their vision. — Blackpool 1990
- This party is back on the road and travelling upwards. — Brighton 1989

## Bell backs son-in-law's plan to fight his seat

By MARK INGLEFIELD  
POLITICAL REPORTER

MARTIN BELL, the BBC war correspondent turned politician, has welcomed an attempt by his son-in-law to replace him as MP for Tatton.

Peter Bracken, who is married to Mr Bell's eldest daughter, Melissa, told *The Times* yesterday that he wanted to become the Labour candidate for the Cheshire seat. His decision came on the day that the area's local Conservative Party finalised a shortlist of four candidates for the seat, which the Tories held by a majority of 20,000 until Mr Bell's victory at the last general election.

"I don't want to be seen as flying my kite but if I was offered Tatton it would be a great opportunity and honour to be its MP," Mr Bracken said.

Mr Bell, who has pledged not to stand for a second term, said: "If he wants to stand and is selected then I wish him



Peter Bracken with his wife, Melissa

well. Tatton is the fourth safest Conservative seat in the country but I think the Conservatives are very wise not to take it for granted."

If Mr Bracken is selected by Labour he will have a tough fight on his hands. The Tories are determined to wrest back Tatton, which they lost when the Labour Party and Liberal Democrats stood down their

candidates at the last election so that Mr Bell could fight the seat on an anti-sleaze ticket.

The then MP, Neil Hamilton, had been forced to resign as a minister because of his involvement in the cash for questions scandal and the Tories are determined to find a candidate who is as "clean as a whistle" to win back their former stronghold.

One of those tipped to make the final shortlist, which was being finalised yesterday, is George Osborne, William Hague's chief speechwriter. Mr Osborne will be pitched against a strong local candidate, Derek Squirrel, a former mayor of Knutsford.

Mr Bracken, 36, a former Army major, currently works for a headhunting agency. He and Melissa met during the 1997 election campaign, when she was working for her father and he was helping the Labour campaign. They live in Handforth and are expecting their first child.

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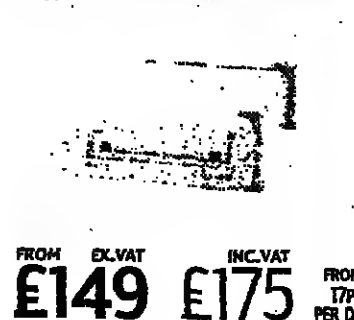
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هكزا من الأهل



# In search of the 'holy water' of Antrim

**They're a dying breed now, but Martin Fletcher tracked down one of Ireland's poteen makers**

IN A tiny, sweltering outhouse lit by a single lightbulb in a remote part of Co Antrim an old man chuckles as a crystal-clear liquid trickles from a spout at the bottom of a large blue barrel. For half a century Patrick has been making poteen, and another batch of his fiery, potent tipples is on its way. Don't drink it yet, he says. Wait till it gets weaker. The first litre or two is "poison" — so strong it would kill you.

I had been looking for one of the dying breed of poteen makers for weeks. Everyone knows how to get the stuff, even police and customs officers, but finding a maker is a different matter. Then one evening my telephone rang. "You're looking for a character?" a man's voice asked. "Meet me outside the bakery in Dunloy at 7pm tomorrow."

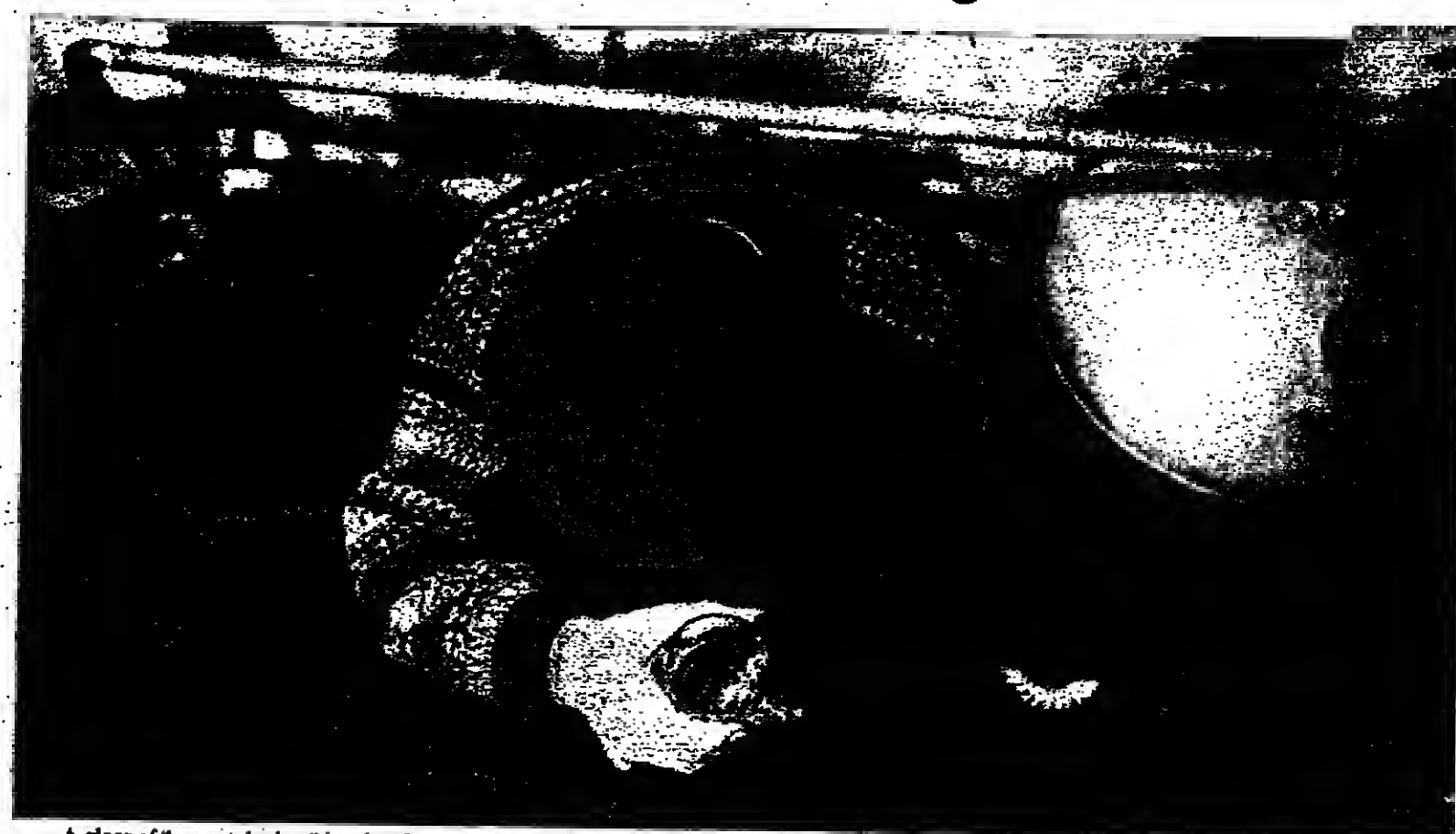
Dunloy is a nationalist village not many miles from Bushmills, where the world's first legal whiskey distillery was established in 1609. I sat in the darkness for half an hour until a car drew up alongside mine. A man with a baseball cap and two days' stubble wound down his window. "Hop in," said Sean, and for 15 minutes we wound through back lanes until we reached an isolated bungalow. "Yer man will be sizing you up before he talks," Sean warned. "He'll want to be sure of you." And in we walked to a spartan living room with a coal fire, a battered sofa and a few holy pictures on the wall.

Patrick (not his real name) was sitting in an upright chair, a genial fellow in his mid-seventies with white hair and bushy eyebrows. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren were watching television. He sat us down and dispatched a grandson to fetch us a glass of his "holy water" or "mountain dew". His wife brought tea and scones.

Patrick had learnt his art from the legendary Mickey McIlhatton, "King of the Glens", he told me in an accent so thick he might have been speaking Urdu. Indeed Sean had to translate. "I asked if I could watch him and he said 'aye'," recalled Patrick. "I watched and I thought I could do that myself."

In the old days, when people could not afford the legal stuff, he would produce 1,000 bottles a year. Now he makes barely 100, which he sells by word of mouth for £6 each. He has been caught twice. The first time he was fined £5 and the second, 30 years ago, £100. "If they caught me now I'd be jail," he reckoned, but there is little chance he will be.

The local police turn a blind eye. Customs officers are far more concerned about the quantities of alcohol, tobacco and diesel being smuggled into Northern Ireland from the South. A spokesman confirmed that poteen was "not a high priority", though he said that bad poteen could cause



A glass of "mountain dew" is taken between the boiler, right, and the condenser, from which the pure poteen emerges as a crystal-clear liquid

blindness and even death. Patrick was nearly caught a few years ago when security forces searching for arms stumbled across his brew in a neighbour's hen house, but with the Troubles over even that danger has receded.

He took us into a shed behind his house where two 20-gallon barrels of fermenting "wash" — sugar, treacle, grapes, raisins, yeast and water — were emitting a strong, sweet smell from beneath their canvas covers. His neighbours all knew when he was brewing, he chuckled.

After three weeks he strains the "wash" into a milk churn, carries it into the outhouse, and transfers it into a large steel boiler beneath which he places a propane gas ring. It takes an hour for the wash to start boiling. The steam is funnelled into a coiled copper pipe — the "worm" — that spirals down into the blue barrel, which is filled with cold water. The steam condenses and comes out through the spout as pure poteen. The entire "run" takes about three hours, and produces enough to fill a dozen gin or vodka bottles with a fluid twice as strong, Patrick

no longer drinks poteen himself. He gave it up a few years ago after a fearful binge. "I was that sick I didn't care if I died or no," he said. His wife now does his tasting.

He knows of no one else in the area that still makes poteen, and none of his sons showed any interest, but he has taught one of his teenage grandsons, who fully intends to keep the art alive.

The evening became distinctly jolly, and ended with us performing various tests with Patrick's poteen. We lit pieces of newspaper covered in the stuff and watched it burn off with a bright blue flame while leaving the paper unscathed. We then did the same using our fingers. Happily the poteen passed both tests, and Sean and I walked out into the night clutching a couple of bottles each as trophies.

**"I was that sick I didn't care if I died or no"**

## Spirits are raised across the globe

By Robin Young

THOUGH there is some evidence that distillation was applied to ancient "beers" based on rice, millet or molasses as early as 800BC, spirits are relative latecomers to the West, post-dating wine and beer by many centuries.

Nonetheless almost every country or region, with the exception of central Africa, has evolved its own spirit based on the cheapest and most plentiful fermentable material available. The Celts of Ireland, Scotland and Wales were world leaders in distilling, developing whiskies made from alcoholic mashes of local grains, which fermented easily in the damp climate.

England's equivalent was gin, also derived from fermented grain. Unlike whisky, which is aged in wood to give it colour and flavour, gin was doctored with flavourings, principally juniper. England also has a small tradition of apple brandy, the best known varie-

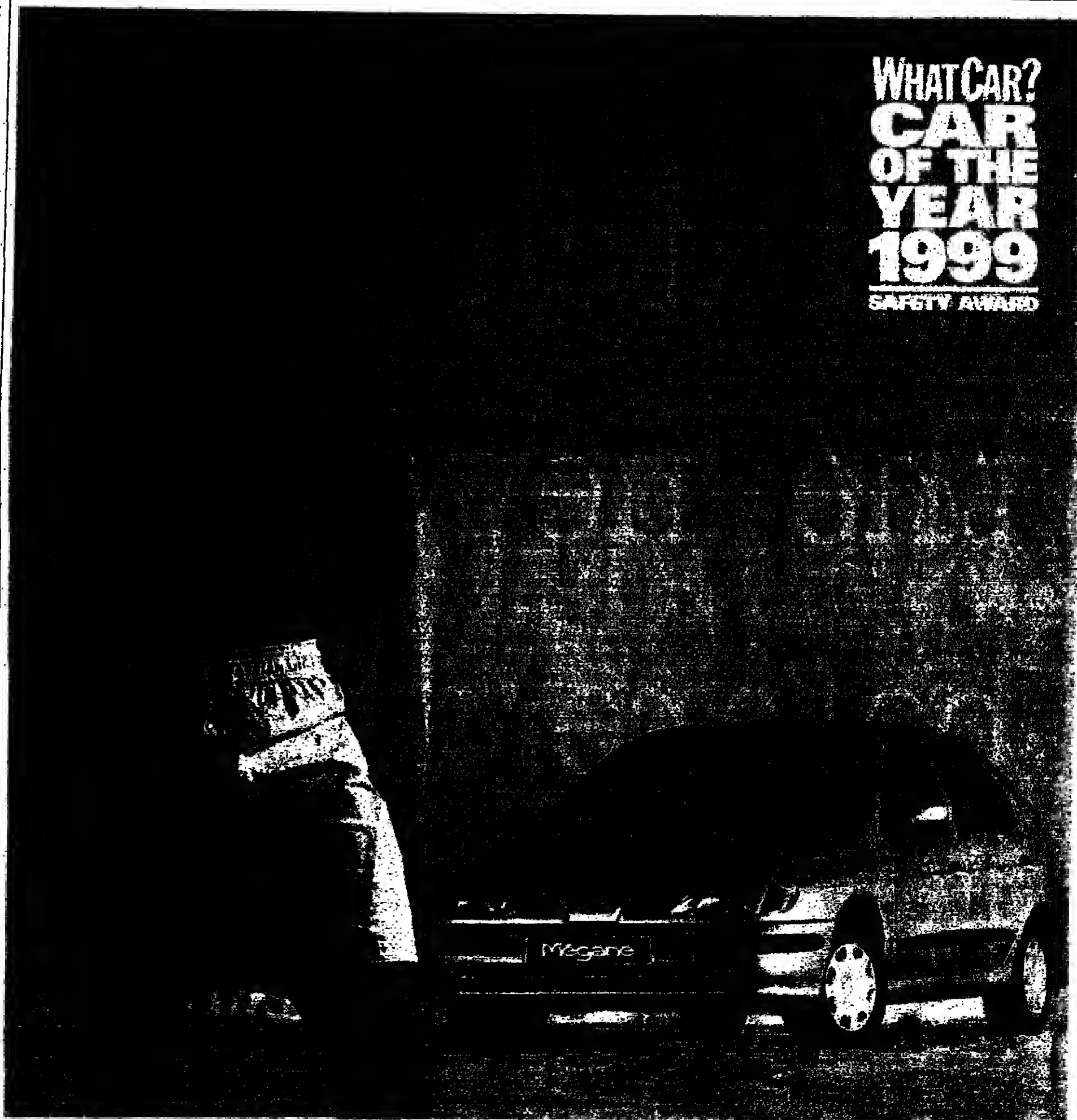
ties of which are from Normandy (calvados) or New England (applejack).

Vodka can be made from virtually anything, with grain, molasses and potatoes being the most common bases. In the Middle East palm sap, dates, grape juice, molasses and cereal are used in making arrack, raki and ouzo, which is usually flavoured with aniseed.

In Scandinavia and northern Germany the local spirit is akvavit or schnapps, grain or potato distillates sometimes flavoured with caraway, and Mexico has tequila from agave juice.

Sugar-producing countries make rum, and wine-producing countries make grape brandies (from wine) and grappa or marc (from pressed skins and pips). In parts of France, *eaux de vie* are still made from holly berries, sorb apples, sloe stones and wild blackberries.

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# 'Chinese stole US missile secrets'

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE United States Government is investigating charges that China stole nuclear secrets that enabled it to make massive leaps in the development of its nuclear arsenal.

The theft may have started as long ago as the 1980s and allowed China to improve weapons that had been a generation behind American missiles. As the Government confirmed the inquiry, it faced accusations that it had been slow to act on the allegations because of political sensitivities.

The federal authorities are investigating whether China used secrets stolen from the

Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico to produce small warheads that could be launched from a single missile at multiple targets.

The *New York Times* reported that the spying was believed to have happened in the mid-1980s but was not detected until 1995, when analysis of Chinese nuclear-missile tests found similarities to America's most-advanced miniature warhead, the W88.

"Currently there is an ongoing investigation to determine if there was criminal conduct, and we continue to assess the implications for national security," David Leavy, the White House National Security Council spokesman, said. But Tang Jiaxuan, the Chinese Foreign Minister, decried the allegations yesterday as baseless. He also warned Washington against placing Taiwan under a missile-defence umbrella, saying it would harm chances



President Clinton with his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, during a 1997 summit news conference in Washington. The White House reportedly knew of the spy claims but tried to minimise them to ensure success at the talks

of a peaceful reunification. But Clinton Administration sources said that a Chinese-American suspect was identified at the US Energy Department's weapons laboratory in Los Alamos in 1996. It was not until this year that he was given a lie-detector test, which one official said he failed. He was not

arrested, but last week was again questioned. Officials said President Clinton was first told in 1997 that information may have been stolen in the mid-1980s by Chinese agents. But critics said the inquiry was delayed because the discoveries came as the Clinton White House was

strengthening its links with China in the run-up to the President Jiang's visit to America in 1997 and Mr Clinton's China tour last year. Moreover, it came as Congress was investigating charges that Beijing had secretly funnelled money to the Democrats in the 1996 presidential campaign.

strengthening its links with China in the run-up to the President Jiang's visit to America in 1997 and Mr Clinton's China tour last year. Moreover, it came as Congress was investigating charges that Beijing had secretly funnelled money to the Democrats in the 1996 presidential campaign.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Thirty immigrants drowned off Florida

Miami: In one of the worst immigrant smuggling disasters off the Florida coast, the US Coast Guard yesterday called off the search for more than 30 Haitians lost at sea after two overloaded boats sank on Saturday (David Adams writes). Three survivors told US officials that one of the two boats suffered mechanical problems about 30 miles east of West Palm Beach. When the second boat went to help, both ended up sinking. Neither boat had life jackets.

"It just reiterates the danger that's involved in smuggling," said Ron LaBrec, a Coast Guard spokesman. "These people leave in small boats that are generally unseaworthy, overcrowded and lacking in even the most basic safety gear." The tragedy comes after another smuggling incident in December when 13 Cubans drowned after a 29ft boat sank in 6ft seas about 20 miles south of Miami. Already this year, 587 Haitians and 406 Cubans have been intercepted off the US coast.

### Uganda suspends treks

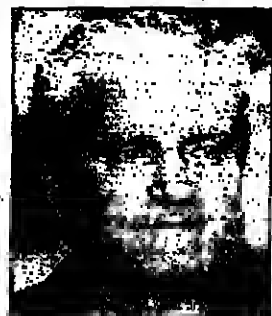
Kampala: The Ugandan Government has suspended treks to the habitat of rare gorillas after the murders last week of eight tourists, including four Britons, by Hutu rebels. The month-long suspension covers visits to both the Bwindi National Park, where the tourists were killed, and Mgahinga National Park, which is further south, as part of a mourning period, according to a directive from Brigadier Moses Ali, the Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry. (AFP)

### Estonians go to polls

Tallinn: Estonians voted in a general election expected to produce a centrist coalition which will lead the country to European Union membership while attempting to kickstart a stalled economy. Though much is at stake, turnout appeared to be low. Opinion polls point to no clear winner. The 860,000 eligible voters were faced with a dizzying field when polls opened — 12 parties and 1,885 candidates, nearly 19 for each of the 101 parliamentary seats. (Reuters)

### Versace 'HIV positive'

New York: A post-mortem examination of Gianni Versace, right, has revealed that the murdered fashion designer was hiding the fact that he was HIV positive, a book claims (James Bone writes). Maureen Orth writes in *Vulgar Favourites*, an account of Andrew Cunanan's five killings across America in 1997, that Versace, a victim, concealed the diagnosis because he was seeking a stock market listing for his fashion empire.



### India air crash kills 21

Delhi: An Indian Air Force Antonov 32 transport aircraft crashed outside the capital, killing 21 people — India's second air disaster in 48 hours. On Friday night an Air France cargo plane ploughed into a Madras runway, bursting into flames. All five people on board survived. The Antonov exploded after crashing on to a building site, sending burning fragments flying into workers' huts. Eighteen servicemen were among the dead. (Reuters)

### Serbs fight for Brcko

Banja Luka: Milorad Dodik, the outgoing Bosnian Serb Prime Minister, urged an emergency session of parliament not to accept a Western ruling that failed to award the northern town of Brcko to the Serb republic. Mr Dodik resigned on Friday in protest at the international arbitration tribunal decision. Hard-line and moderate deputies threatened to suspend their participation in the country's state parliament over the issue. (Reuters)

### Crash singer 'critical'

Franklin, Tennessee: The country singer George Jones was in a critical condition after his car crashed into a bridge near his home while he was talking on a mobile phone to his stepdaughter. Jones, 67, lost control while rounding a bend in the road, state police said, adding that he was not wearing a seat belt. Jones is famous for hits such as *He Stopped Loving Her Today* and *The Race Is On*. (AP)

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# Pol Pot's Butcher to face Cambodia trial

TA MOK — Grandfather Mok — the last Khmer Rouge leader at large and perhaps the most brutal, was in custody in Phnom Penh last night amid indications that he would be put on trial as a scapegoat for all the sins of the murderous group, so letting other former leaders off the hook.

Charismatic and ruthless, Mok, known as "The Butcher", was a clever military man who took charge of bloody purges for the late Pol Pot. Unlike other Khmer Rouge leaders, he was a former peasant not a Paris-educated intellectual. He and his men carried out the purges, eliminating real or imagined enemies of "Angkor", the sinister organisation that ruled Cambodia when the Khmer Rouge was in power — all at the behest of Pol Pot, whom he later betrayed.

Government officials, casting doubt on the likelihood of any Khmer Rouge leader facing an international court, said that Mok, arrested on Saturday, apparently on Thailand's northern border with Cambodia, would be prosecuted by a Cambodian court under Cambodian law. Khieu Kanharith, a government spokesman,

**Ta Mok may be Khmer Rouge scapegoat, writes James Pringle in Beijing**

said that it was unlikely Mok would be sent to an international tribunal after that. Observers said that the domestic conviction of the most notorious remaining Khmer Rouge leader might stall the push for an international trial for other leaders such as "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, an intellectual who wrote the blueprint for the Khmer Rouge agrarian revolution that led to the deaths of 1.7 million Cambodians between 1975 and 1979. Both surrendered and were treated to a luxury tour of Cambodia by Hun Sen, the Prime Minister, before returning to the Khmer Rouge's former headquarters at Pailin, where they live in relative comfort.



Khmer Rouge regime left 1.7 million people dead

A team of United Nations jurists has recommended that 20 to 30 former Khmer Rouge be brought before an international tribunal for crimes against humanity and genocide. But, despite mounting calls for such a tribunal, Mr Sen — a former junior Khmer Rouge officer who broke away in 1977 — has urged caution, saying attempts to bring the leaders to trial could end the first period of peace Cambodia has known for 30 years.

"Mok is to be made a scapegoat

for all the rest," said one Cambodian analyst.

In Pailin recently other former leaders said that, while they should not be tried for genocide because they had repented, Ta Mok should, as he was a hardliner. "All the people here in Pailin welcome the news of the Government's arrest of Ta Mok," a former Khmer Rouge official said last night.

Mok has only one leg, having lost the other in a tractor accident, not to through a mine. Yet he took care of his fighters who had been similarly maimed and for this his men, as one told this correspondent, "would do anything for him". He would, however, dispose of his enemies, often by poisoning.

Mok has maintained good relations with Thai military men in northeast Thailand, and used a vehicle with Thai military plates, bought rice for his troops there and had several safe houses.

Last year he seemed on the point of handing over Pol Pot to the Phnom Penh Government but, hearing this on Liberation Radio, the Khmer Rouge station, Pol Pot took his own life — unless, of course, he was poisoned by Mok.



Ta Mok, known as The Butcher but inspiring devotion among his men, at a Khmer Rouge base in Cambodia in April last year.

## Bomb blast at theatre kills six in Bangladesh

FROM AHMED FAZL IN DHAKA

TWO powerful bombs activated by a timing device destroyed part of a crowded theatre in western Bangladesh yesterday, leaving six people dead and 100 injured. The explosions spread panic through the garrison town of Jessore, on the India-Bangladesh border, 170 miles west of the capital, Dhaka.

Bazur Rahman, the local police chief, said: "The two bombs, believed planted by Islamic extremists, were hidden under a stage erected for the performing artists." One of the dead was a woman participant.

The performance had been organised by Udichi, a leading anti-fundamentalist cultural group which has been the target of attacks by militant Muslim clerics. The bombing came ahead of a political rally in Dhaka yesterday addressed by Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister, to mark the 25th anniversary of Bangladesh's declaration of independence.

## Pressure grows on Japan to unmask its war criminals

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

GRUESOME medical experiments conducted on prisoners by the Japanese during the Second World War are behind mounting pressure on Tokyo to reopen a vast military archive and so help to identify surviving war criminals.

As many as 10,000 POWs may have been victims of atrocities masterminded by General Shiro Ishii, commander of the Japanese Imperial Army's germ warfare division — Unit 731. Yet despite casualty numbers 12 times those of the Nazi Dr Josef Mengele, no Unit 731 veterans have been brought to justice.

Details of one of the war's darkest chapters were broadcast on US television last night in a documentary likely to cause as much embarrassment to American officials as to Japanese. Not for the first time, Americans were accused of covering up the scale of General Ishii's activities in return for acquiring his research results for the Pentagon's germ warfare programme.

Unit 731: Nightmare in Manchuria, recounted how General Ishii began using anthrax, typhus and other deadly pathogens against Chinese soldiers in Manchuria in the 1930s. It also contained inter-

views with US survivors of Japanese prison camps there.

The film was based heavily on research by Sheldon Harris, a Californian history professor who pieced together details of Unit 731's activities from Chinese and Soviet records for a 1994 book, *Faces of Death*. The book, containing claims of prisoners being infected with germs and dissected alive, will be published in Japan this spring.

Professor Harris found no proof that Allied prisoners were subjected to the tortures, and it is known that some 100,000 Chinese soldiers bore the brunt. But last night's film alleged for the first time that there were American victims. The US Justice Department has the names of more than 60,000 suspected German war criminals, all barred from entering the country. But only 100 suspected Japanese war criminals are known.

[www.usdoj.gov/oea/asia/731.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/oea/asia/731.html) — A timeline of Japan's germ warfare programme with links to other sites  
[www.southwest.com/731.htm](http://www.southwest.com/731.htm) — Information on Unit 731 from the Advocacy & Intelligence Index for Prisoners of War and Those Missing in Action

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# Colosseum's animal magic was high art

THE Hollywood image of the Colosseum as a bare, sandy arena covered with the blood of wild beasts, gladiators and martyred Christians is largely mistaken, according to a team of German and Italian archaeologists who have spent three years studying the amphitheatre's underground chambers and corridors.

Heinz Beste, a German archaeologist, and Rossella Rea, an Italian archaeologist, say that the Colosseum was in fact "the greatest theatre of ancient times", able to stage "sumptuous entertainments" thanks to a highly sophisticated mechanism of moveable scenery and a complex system of hidden lifts, hoists and pulleys.

The result, Herr Beste said, was a daily programme of "spectacular shows". They did involve bloodshed, but not in the form of "duels to the death", which were a late-night speciality. Romans attending shows during the day were shown "amazing special effects" involving hundreds of actors and exotic animals. "It was a form of propaganda," Signora Rea said.

The aim was to impress Ro-

Rome's arena provided more theatre than bloodshed, writes Richard Owen

mans with the empire's foreign conquests by displaying the flora and fauna of Africa and Asia in a colourful piece of theatre. "It seems films such as *Quo Vadis* got it wrong," said *Il Messaggero*.

The Colosseum was commissioned in AD72 by the Emperor Vespasian (AD69-79), a professional soldier who despised his deranged and megalomaniac predecessor, Nero. Vespasian drained Nero's artificial lake and built the Colosseum on the site (a golden Colossus of Nero that stood nearby gave the amphitheatre its name).

Faced with Travertine marble, it seated 55,000 spectators, and was inaugurated in AD80 by Vespasian's son, the Emperor Titus, with an opening festival lasting 100 days. It became

a ruin in medieval times, but restoration a hundred years ago revealed the structures beneath the arena.

The building is being further renovated for the millennium, at a cost of £15 million. Herr Beste said that the current restoration had enabled experts to examine the remaining structures "centimetre by centimetre". They had found evidence that the arena was covered with 3,588 square yards of wooden flooring, underneath which were sloping ramps operated by winches, each moved by eight slaves.

There was also evidence of a "dense network" of lifts behind the podium, with one placed every 3.5 yards and 24 giant trapdoors in the stage. The ramps and lifts would have produced hundreds of actors and animals "as if by magic".

The archaeologists said mornings and afternoons were devoted to animal shows, with gladiator fights only taking place late in the evening. In a typical daytime performance, spectators would have seen a "grove of palms and trees, rocky hills, pools, pavil-



The Hollywood image of the Colosseum, as depicted in *Quo Vadis* with Peter Ustinov playing Nero, has now been questioned by archaeologists

ions and colonnaded buildings" against a vividly painted backdrop. The stage would gradually fill with bears, wolves, lynxes, and wild boar, then lions, panthers, crocodiles, camels and elephants, "beasts which Romans had only seen in mosaics".

Signora Rea said that fights to the death were staged, both between hunters and animals, and between the animals themselves. "But many were trained and looked after, as in modern circuses", and animal fights were eventually banned altogether in AD523.

Adriano La Regina, the Superintendent of Archaeology, said that the stage machinery as re-created by the German-Italian team according to descriptions of spectacles witnessed by writers such as Martial and Suetonius, and there were plans to reconstruct the

lifts and trap doors to stage shows in the Colosseum for the millennium — "but without the bloodshed".

He said that accounts of the Colosseum being flooded to stage mock sea battles were probably mistaken, however, since the elaborate under-

ground mechanisms would have been damaged. The "sea battles" are now thought to have taken place across the Tiber, in a water-filled arena built by the Emperor Augustus (23BC-AD14), now buried beneath the streets of the Trastevere quarter.

## Colonel robs bank for his savings

FROM ALICE LAGNADO IN MOSCOW

A FORMER colonel robbed a Moscow bank this week after his \$20,000 (£12,000) life savings were wiped out by Russia's financial collapse.

Dmitri Setrakov, 66, walked into the Bank Rossijski Kredit on Tverskaya Ulitsa, Moscow's equivalent of Oxford Street, at 10am on Friday with a hunting rifle and took the chief accountant hostage. He also threatened to blow up the bank. Terrified bank staff handed him the money in cash before he was arrested. No one was injured in the hold-up.

According to a report in the *Kommersant* newspaper, Colonel Setrakov's wife was seriously ill and needed the money for an operation. Colonel Setrakov had been trying to get at his money since September, using more traditional methods, but without success. His desperate move

struck a chord with thousands of other Russians who lost their life savings or had them decimated when the country sank into financial crisis in August.

Even the police said they sympathised with the colonel. "People don't resolve to do such things without reason. He did the right thing, since banks will not give out money," a spokeswoman told the *Moscow Times*.

Those Russians who did have bank accounts were brave indeed. The banking system is not well established in Russia, with hundreds of banks to choose from and no way to tell how reliable they are. Many people still keep their money under the mattress at home.

This is the second such attempt the bank has seen. In December, Aleksandr Shreiber, 39, took three members of staff

hostage while demanding his savings be returned. He surrendered after an hour.

There have been numerous other stories of similar hold-ups in other parts of Russia as people have turned to violence to try to get back what is theirs.

Others turned the violence in on themselves with several cases of pensioners hanging themselves. One of the saddest cases was that of Pavel Yulayev, 77, who collapsed and died at a bank in the Mordovia region in September when he saw that his savings had been frozen.

An estimated 32,000 Muscovites have sued banks, with some success: about 5 per cent of cases have been won, though judges are often paid off by bankers to prevent money from being handed over.

Anna Blundy, page 20

## Kurds claim attack on helicopter

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL



Ecevit hopes to capitalise on rebel leader's capture

AS Bulent Ecevit, Turkey's Prime Minister, and members of his Cabinet toured the country's southeast yesterday, boasting of gaining the upper hand in the war with Kurdish guerrillas, rebels claimed to have shot down an army helicopter, killing 20 soldiers.

The Germany-based Kurdish news agency DEM said all perished on the helicopter in the southeastern province of Hakkari, the latest strike in the war for autonomy that the rebels vowed would increase after the capture of their leader, Abdullah Ocalan. The military would not comment.

In the city of Diyarbakir,

Mr Ecevit and his Cabinet discussed a regional aid package with officials. There were no meetings with local businessmen, who had been warned by the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) to stay away.

The £70 million package is designed to encourage investment in a part of the country where the economy has been caught in the crossfire between security forces and the PKK. The Government hopes to capitalise in forthcoming elections on Mr Ocalan's capture in Kenya nearly three weeks ago.

With workers on the prison island of Inirlik building a spe-

cial courthouse to try Mr Ocalan, security forces across the country are on alert.

Earlier, Mr Ecevit said that police had detained a suspect in a car bombing last Friday in Cankiri, a town north of Ankara. A regional governor was seriously injured. Three people, including two girls, died.

□ **Bomb:** Mr Ocalan blames Kenya for handing him over to Turkey, a lawyer said in a magazine interview published today. "He said he was not captured by Turkish forces but handed over by the Kenyans," said Ahmet Zeki Okcuoglu, an Istanbul lawyer seeking to represent him. (AFP)

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مكتبة النور



## A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person's face, heavily shadowed and distorted, appearing to be part of a newspaper clipping or a heavily processed image. The image is grainy and has a stark, almost abstract quality. The top of the image shows a curved edge with some text, possibly from a newspaper header, which is partially cut off. The main part of the image shows a dark, shadowed face with some highlights on the forehead and nose. The bottom of the image is a solid black rectangle.

week there are television documentaries about some aspects of the Third Reich. Indeed the constitution was created as a counterweight to the Nazi era and so comparisons are valid: the Gestapo did this, so we, having learnt our lesson, do the opposite. I also think it legitimate to compare joblessness with the mass unemployment of the 1930s since today's economic debate has prewar roots.

The war needs to be understood by new generations. Problems arise when it is treated as a music-hall joke and serious democratic politicians are portrayed as Nazi

The right-wing Herr Haider's campaign mascot is a bear called Kenny, adopted by the politician and given sanctuary on his estate in Carinthia after farmers had threatened to shoot the animal. Herr Haider has pledged to expel all jobless foreigners, except citizens of the EU.

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A security official keeps guard over Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's tent in the grounds of Cairo's Qubba Palace.

## Gaddafi pitches for better deal

LIBYA'S maverick ruler, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, held more talks in Cairo yesterday to overcome the final obstacles on resolving the Lockerbie saga (Christopher Walker writes).

The dictator, spending a week in Egypt for talks on a range of issues besides Lockerbie, has erected a tent in the grounds of Qubba Palace for his accommodation. It will also be used as a venue for meetings.

Yesterday he met Esnet Abdel Meguid, the Egyptian-born head of the Arab League, to discuss guarantees and procedures over the handover of two Libyan

suspects to stand trial, under Scottish law, in The Netherlands. Britain and America, whose citizens were among the majority of the 270 victims who died in the bombed plane over Lockerbie, have imposed a 30-day deadline for their handover.

Arab officials said the Libyan leader was continuing to seek guarantees that the two Libyan intelligence agents would receive a fair trial and that their handover would be matched by an immediate end to the crippling United Nations economic sanctions imposed on Libya since 1992.

## Son takes over in Bahrain on death of Emir

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

FOR the second time in a few weeks, a crucial Western ally in the Middle East has seen the smooth transition of power from father to son, this time in the Gulf state of Bahrain, whose ruler, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, 66, died of a heart attack at the weekend.

As in the recent transfer of power in Jordan after the death of King Hussein, the Sheikh's Sandhurst-trained eldest son, Crown Prince Hamad, was sworn in as the new Emir of the small oil-rich island which has played a key role in US and British policy in the region for many years and which is linked by a causeway to Saudi Arabia.

Although Sheikh Hamad, like the new King Abdullah II of Jordan, is primarily an army man, he has had more experience in the day-to-day running of the country.

Bahrain is home to the biggest US naval base in the region and its ruler died shortly after talks with William Cohen, the US Secretary for Defence, who was on a visit. Sheikh Isa offered facilities to the US Navy, discreetly at first because of popular resentment against a foreign military presence, then openly during and after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

He also allowed the use of Bahrain airfields by British and American planes. After the Gulf War, he travelled to Washington to sign a security pact with the US.

The new Emir was already commander-in-chief of the armed forces, having been responsible for their rapid build-up recently, including the recruitment of mercenaries from Jordan and Pakistan with a reputation for brutality. He takes over at a time

when the Sunni Muslim ruling family is embroiled in a long-running conflict with militant members of the Shia Muslim majority, who comprise about 65 per cent of the 580,000 population, live mostly in poor villages outside the gleaming capital, Manama, and have been encouraged in their campaign of unrest by the mullahs in Tehran.

The religious differences have been exacerbated by the late Emir's decision in 1975 — after a two-year experiment in democracy — to dissolve the National Assembly and suspend the Constitution.

Western governments have largely turned a blind eye to the heavy-handed tactics of the Bahraini security forces in what has often come to resemble a guerrilla war.

Obituary, page 23



Sheikh Hamad receiving condolences in Manama yesterday on the death of his father, Sheikh Isa. He was sworn in as the new Emir of Bahrain on the same day.

## Talks on Lebanon pullout

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, yesterday sent a special envoy to Paris for discussions on the terms for an Israeli withdrawal from the buffer zone it occupies in south Lebanon, Israeli army radio reported.

The trip appeared to have been organised by the Prime Minister after Salim Hoss, his Lebanese counterpart, indicated in a BBC interview at the weekend that, if Israel withdrew from south Lebanon, his Government would prevent cross-border attacks by Islamic and Palestinian guerrillas.

The future of the costly Israeli military presence in the nine-mile-wide buffer zone has emerged as a prime issue in the May 17 general election after the recent killing of seven more Israelis there, including a brigadier-general, and a pledge by the main opposition candidate, Ehud Barak, the Labour leader, to "bring the boys home" within 12 months if he is elected.

Mr Netanyahu would not confirm the report that he had sent his top diplomatic adviser, Uzi Arad, to France for talks on the situation. "I prefer not to give details about our diplomatic contacts," he said.

The radio did not say when Mr Arad left or who he planned to meet in Paris.

## Damascus to rearm Saddam

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE EDITOR

A SECRET deal has been agreed between Syria and Iraq for the supply of military equipment to Baghdad, according to Middle East intelligence sources.

Relations between the two countries have been improving significantly in recent months, with agreements already signed to develop both political and economic co-operation.

Now, after a new deal between the Syrian and Iraqi intelligence services, military equipment valued at about £60 million is to be shipped across the border, the intelligence sources said.

Since the 1991 Gulf War, President Saddam Hussein has faced a severe shortage of spare parts for his army because of the international arms embargo. Under the Damascus agreement, Syrian spare parts for military equipment would be converted for use by the Iraqi Army, the sources said. The parts would include engines for Russian-made tanks and trucks for armoured fighting vehicles.

Syria is also expected to supply spares for anti-aircraft radar facilities — hit by recent American and British bombing — lorries, aircraft and helicopters, and ammunition.

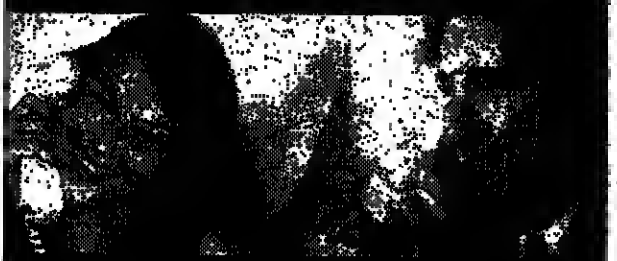
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# The new philanthropists

Millionaire Torquil Norman and heiress Sabrina Guinness are both dedicated to helping disadvantaged children. Grace Bradberry and Vanora Bennett report

WHEN this decade began, there was much talk about the caring, sharing Nineties. With the country mired in recession and individuals scrambling to look after themselves, it sounded like empty Zeitgeist rhetoric. Yet with the millennium upon us, there are signs that this has indeed become a more caring, sharing decade.

Over the past ten years, there has been a general realisation that the welfare state cannot solve all society's ills. Rather than locking the front door and blocking their minds, however, people seem more inclined to embrace social problems as their own.

Those who are "getting involved" do not necessarily support new Labour. Yet whatever you think of the arrogance and spin of the Blair project, there is no doubt that at its heart lies a social conscience. In this the Government and its People are one. We have rejected both the notion that the poor should help themselves, and that of handouts, in favour of an inclusive society where the haves and have-nots work together for a better community.

Companies are not just giving to charity, they are also involving their employees. Accountants painting hostels would have been unheard of in the Eighties. Individuals, too, have ceased to view charitable giving as a way to save the conscience while improving their tax position. They want to do something. "Social Entrepreneurs", identified by Charles Leadbeater in a 1997 Demos report, take under-utilised resources and use them to satisfy unmet social needs. Such people give the lie to Margaret Thatcher's observation that "no one would remember the Good Samaritan if he'd had only good intentions. He had money as well."

We are also seeing the rise of the "new philanthropists", who prove that an entrepreneurial spirit and a social conscience are not incompatible. Torquil Norman exemplifies the breed. Having built a £100 million company from nothing, he is now putting both his money and his time into a visionary project.

Crane-like, Torquil Norman stoops towards the mop of dark hair. "Are you playing that?" he asks, curious at the musical talents of the small boy with his miniature organ. The child, who is Bulgarian and part of a travelling circus family, doesn't answer, but smiles instead. Norman smiles, too, straightens his 6ft 7in frame and looks around him at the shadowy grandeur of the Camden Roundhouse, in North London.

Norman, 66, is a man who could as soon ignore a child as perform acrobatics on the steel drums suspended above his head. He made his fortune from "kiddies", as he calls them, setting up Bluebird Toys in the Eighties and becoming one of that decade's most successful entrepreneurs. Now, as the saying goes, he is "giving something back", and the Roundhouse is part of his gift.

The day we meet, his acquisition seems a quiet, gloomy but earnest mental place. A door at the back has been forced open. There are padlocks to keep people out. But it won't be like this for much longer. Already it has been filled with the sounds of 100 young people taking part in a workshop run by *Stomp*, a theatrical troupe that makes music from dustbin lids. Soon, Norman hopes, it will be filled with young people not only making music but also producing videos and films, learning multimedia skills, designing clothes and using recording studios — a purpose-designed training centre, for 13 to 20-year-olds. It

amounts to a hugely ambitious philanthropic scheme, but Norman has that rare ability to make ambitious schemes work. Throughout his life he has embarked on risky ventures and daring adventures, driven by the personal motto "if in doubt, do it". *The New Yorker* magazine described him as "the last buccaneer", and despite his languorous manner, there is more than a touch of derring-do about him.

He has rescued and flown vintage planes that others deemed too dangerous. He founded a £100 million toy company, opening a factory in a recession. And now he has bought the Roundhouse, an historic building left alone by more circumspect individuals. Conceived by Robert Stephenson as an engine maintenance shed, the Roundhouse was a legendary venue of the Sixties and Seventies. Yet for the past 20 years it has been more or less neglected, gathering grime on the Chalk Farm Road. Norman's motivation is not so much to save the building as the young people who live in its environs.

"I never thought I'd be driven by any emotional feeling in this sort of way," he admits. "But I've felt that throughout my life young people have got a worse and worse deal." In marketing, focus groups, he noticed that it was "the gritty little sods who weren't especially clever, who had lots of the best ideas", and became determined to help them to get on in life. Rich, but not that rich, he has pledged a £6.2 million trust fund to the centre. To realise the



Torquil Norman, the entrepreneur who has pledged a £6.2 million trust fund to turn Camden's Roundhouse into a purpose-designed training centre for 13 to 20-year-olds

dream, £10 million is needed from other sources. Norman believes the funding will come through. "You've got to believe," he says. But there is no guarantee that the Lottery Commission and Arts Council will say yes. If they don't, "I can't tell you what we'll do", he adds.

The project is not, however, a black hole for cash. The renovation has been conceived with commercial as well as charitable uses in mind. An extra level will be inserted below a glass roof, and art exhibitions, product launches and jazz events will take place there. There are even hopes for a Roundhouse record label. The undercroft, with its network of brick walls radiating from the centre like spokes, is to be converted into a series of studios.

Meanwhile, Norman is seeking sponsorship for his latest epic flight. In July he will pilot a Thirties de Havilland DH85 Leopard Moth

from England to the American airbase of Oshkosh. It is likely to be a hazardous trip, but Norman is driven by an obsession rooted in his childhood. His father was Sir Henry Nigel St Valery Norman, a talented architect and courageous aviator, who built London's first airport, then started up the airborne services during the Second World War with Lieutenant-General Frederick (Boy) Browning. Sir Nigel died in 1943, on a flight to North Africa. Torquil, 10, had not seen his father for three years previously, having been evacuated to America.

The flying bug had already entered Norman's soul. When he was a child his father built "a little pedal car" in the shape of an aeroplane. On the side it said, GAWWP. It meant "God Willing And Weather Permitting". He and his brothers befriended a test pilot at the local airbase who would take them up.

He was educated at Eton, where he became Head of Boats, and President of Pop, the elite group of boys who "ran" the school. He joined the Fleet Air Arm as a naval pilot. Despite being three inches over the height limitation, he managed to deceive the petty officer who measured him by bending his knees inside his bell-bottoms.

After National Service he followed his father and brothers into 601 Squadron and flew Meteors. "My legs were three inches too long — if I'd had to use the ejector seat, it would have knocked my legs off."

As for the motivation for these activities, "I'm sure everything was to do with my father", he says. He actively sought to be sent to Korea, but the war ended three weeks before he set out. His mother persuaded him to go to Cambridge instead. Afterwards he took a banking job in New York and met his

wife, Anne Montagu, who was parachuting at the same airbase. Despite this heavy activity, she is an artist who trained at the Slade alongside Lucian Freud.

Norman left banking and went into industry, but in 1979 he was ousted from the board of Berwick Timpco, the toy company he had turned round. At 46 he was unemployed with five children. While lying in the bath one day he came up with the idea for The Big Yellow Teapot, a plastic playhouse with a lid that mimed. Unable to bear the idea of someone else developing his idea, he started Bluebird Toys. The company went public in 1985 and he retired in the early Nineties.

He says, half jokingly, that he started the charitable trust because of his wife's profligacy. "My wife used to give my overdraft to good causes faster than I could keep up with it." He divided up everything

he had, directing a proportion of it to a charitable trust. When he made his fortune, so did the trust.

Norman is not one of those people who thinks that all youngsters would benefit from leaping out of aircraft simply because he did. The spirit of adventure "has something to do with how your genes are put together", he suggests. "But I do know one thing about young people, which is that they have an infinite capacity for ideas. They should all have the chance to show commitment. The thing that gets you out of a lot of holes, it seems to me, is enthusiasm and the willingness to stick at things."

"You simply can't say that they aren't totally redeemable."

GB

Leading article, page 21

## 'I am just lucky to have something I love doing'

The cameraman is arguing with a producer. Other production staff are poring over schedules. As he waits for the day's celebrity visitor, a nervous presenter is trying out his questions. It is just like a real TV studio, in fact — except that all the workers are teenagers or younger.

Children as young as eight scurry up and down the stairs of a former car salesroom in West London, purposeful and motivated as they absorb the basics of TV production. Somewhere in the bustle a slim blonde with a slightly distracted air can be seen waiting about on an endless round of problem-solving. This is Sabrina Guinness, first known as

a society beauty, later a Hollywood film-maker, and, for the past five years, the founder and director of Youth Cable Television (YCTV).

"Every day is different," says Guinness. "It's exciting. Young people today should be given a voice; they seem to be the focus of so much attention, from the public and from politicians, but are we listening enough to them?"

For those aged from 18 down to 11, and for "Kids' Club" members from 8 to 12, Guinness's training project has proved a godsend. Most of the 300 children on the books are from three "tough" estates around Ladbroke Grove, North Kensington, a transitional district where extremes of wealth cross over with extremes of deprivation, where tower blocks and prefabricated housing intersect with genteel Georgian stucco, and where crime, drugs and unemployment are among the possible fates awaiting young people.

"My family like it that I come here," says 18-year-old Kae Iden, who is between two college courses and has become one of the project's star scriptwriters. "They see I'm doing something good, not like, you know, I'm out there in the streets trying to rob people." He laughs self-deprecatingly.

Guinness, 43, is trying to arrange funding for one of Kae's scripts, a "Trainpotterised" version of *Oliver Twist*, to make it into a feature film. "I've seen the positive changes in these young people," she says. "That's what I love most — the positive outcome."

The idea for the project grew out of Guinness's enthusiasm for work she had done in her Los Angeles days, encouraging youths from urban gangs — who had fought each other in riots in 1992 — to perform together and make friends.

The English set up, however, was not based on performance training but on encouraging training but on encouraging her new charges to gain techni-



Sabrina Guinness, the founder and director of Youth Cable Television, in Kensington

cal skills in making TV. Using her well-stocked contacts book, Guinness raised enough funding to start training local children in 1994. Their car-salesroom home was converted into a TV studio in three days. The first programmes went on air in 1995 on a local cable channel, Cable & Wireless 60.

Philanthropy is an unorthodox career path for a woman who once dated the Prince of Wales and seemed destined for an heiress's lifestyle. Guinness is dismissive of questions about her past, as she is about the interpretation sometimes put on her work — that she is a latterday Lady Bountiful dispensing charity to the poor.

"Prince Charles was 20 years ago; it's not relevant," she says calmly. "The fact that I then worked in the film business was incredibly useful. I got to know how it works and I got to know some of the peo-

ple, so that couldn't be better. As far as Lady Bountiful goes, I just consider myself lucky to have found something I love doing. I love the creative process of film-making and I love children, and I've managed to put the two together. It's good to get up in the morning and want to go to work."

"If your name is Guinness, you're branded. That can irritate me, because it stems from not looking into what I'm doing here. But I've accepted it."

Four years on, the studio is putting together three half-hour slots a day, with chat shows, music and movie programmes, interviews and pieces made by the Kids' Club. "What is attractive about it is that Sabrina brings her own juice to it," says Tulip Tuit. YCTV's new executive producer. "She knows a lot of people. She provides us with many short cuts. Plus, we have charitable status. That, and the

young people who are so interested in TV, is an exciting combination." One of the lures for local kids is the star-studded guest list. Harrison Ford, Mel C and Chris Smith are among those interviewed at YCTV.

Children who have been sidelined academically at school can find a fresh start here, learning such techniques as film editing or animation. "We had one person who was excluded from school when he was 14 and was in here for the next three years. Now he's a good editor," says Tuit.

YCTV, which offers children a free induction course and then lets them specialise in the area of TV for which they have the most talent, is more than a social safety valve. It equips them with skills, confidence and exposure to TV culture, which will help them into jobs in the

media. A dozen or so members have moved on to college or jobs in the TV industry. "We hope that in the future we will be able to put more people into jobs, but TV is very white-dominated, very Oxbridge-dominated," says Tuit.

However, YCTV is not the only project bringing the media to the youth of North Kensington. The area, which is near Notting Hill, the media elite's home of choice in West London, is the easy-access target for magnets with big hearts. Also operating near by are the North Kensington Video and Drama Project and Massive Videos, and several youth clubs with film and photography equipment.

"In a way, kids around here are spoilt for choice. They're calm, almost blasé, about celebrities," says Leah Drane, 25, YCTV's welfare officer. To give access to the facilities to teenagers in less well-served districts, she has spent time broadening the catchment areas. Many of the members come from East and South London or farther afield.

"Having lots of people from the media, who can help, living in the borough is a big advantage," says Guinness. "The young people who come here in term-time are mostly local. But in the holidays we get people from all over England."

As its technical expertise grows, YCTV makes its own programmes and works on commissions for TV companies. BBC Choice, Carlton Digital and Disney are talking to Guinness. Sky recently put up funding for Tuit's job. Raising the £300,000 a year needed to keep the studio going has been Guinness's biggest worry; but now, she says, TV companies are starting to recognise the value of a new source of ideas and workers.

"It's good now that TV companies are beginning to support us. It feels like we're growing up," she says.

VB

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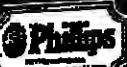
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## MILAN FASHION WEEK



GUCCI



MARNI



JIL SANDER

## FASHION DIARY

THE power of the accessory was demonstrated in Milan — first at Fendi. That the fashion crowd now eagerly attends this show rather than dreading it is almost entirely due to the success of Fendi's bags.

The first must-have was the Baguette, then came the Croissant — and last Thursday everyone wanted to see what would be next. There

were more lovely versions of the Baguette and the Croissant, and for those who cannot cram their belongings into either of these, there is a chunky new knitted Arran, ideal for those country walks.

It really is a case of Bag Wars. Not since 18th-century courtesans placed their fake beauty spots according to their political allegiances has so much significance rested on something so insubstantial. But this season's bag is, without doubt, Gucci's Jacqueline — the ubiquitous squashy shoulder sack — which will not have gone unnoticed by Bernard Arnault, the head of LVMH, who is trying to increase his shares in Gucci and slip it in with the rest of his

portfolio, comprising Celine, Dior, Loewe, Louis Vuitton, Christian Lacroix and Givenchy.

M. Arnault has said that he can make Gucci more profitable. But none of LVMH's fashion houses — not even Dior — has managed to come up with a must-have bag each season as Gucci has done.

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CHANGING TIMES

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OPERA  
Crudity meets  
kitsch in a  
sad ENO show  
THIS PAGE

# THE TIMES ARTS



## Yale reopens its key Anglo file

Paul Mellon's recent death robbed us of an outstanding benefactor, whose enthusiasm for British art transformed its representation in his native America. But Mellon's legacy is set to endure, above all in the great museum he founded and endowed at Yale University. The Yale Centre for British Art, housed in a luminous building designed by Louis Kahn, contains the finest historical collection of British painting to be found anywhere outside the UK.

Sadly, Kahn's building was closed all last year. The roof needed urgent attention; and while its 56 domes were being refitted, the galleries were supplied with new backing wall-boards, linen and carpets. Now it has reopened, with an interior as pristine as it was when inaugurated in 1977.

Kahn's architecture, dominated by concrete, steel and glass on the austere facade, becomes far richer within. The Entrance Court, surging up through the full height of the building so that it benefits from the glazed domes' top-lighting, offers a spectacular welcome. Not that Kahn relinquishes his Corbusian love of concrete inside. It remains visible wherever you look, and takes on an awesome authority in the cylindrical staircase.

With considerable daring, Kahn exposed the outside of this great drum to anyone gazing down from above. It looks like minimal sculpture at its most uncompromising, above all when viewed from the well of the Library Court. But the wood in panelling and floor, as well as a magnificent rug spread between the sofas, offset any threat of gloom.

Moreover, the walls of the Library Court have been re-

**VISUAL ART: The great benefactor**  
Paul Mellon would have loved his beautifully refurbished Yale Centre for British Art, says Richard Cork

hung to dramatic effect. Now the cream of the paintings by George Stubbs, an abiding favourite of Mellon, are displayed around the room. Previously, the two largest and most provocative Stubbs canvases, *Horse Attacked by a Lion* and *Lion Attacking a Stag*, were hung far above visitors' heads. Now they confront us at eye level.

The main sweep of the collection, though, can be found on the fourth floor. Rearranged in a series of themes, it tells a broadly chronological story of British painting from Tudor times to the early 20th century.

Mellon bought Gainsborough at an early, captivating stage, when the young artist lived in Suffolk and painted the Gravenor family at ease on the edge of a sunlit cornfield. The outcome is the quintessence of freshness, bathing the Ipswich apothecary with his wife and delectable daughters in a luminosity Gainsborough would never surpass.

Mellon did not stint when he had the chance to acquire masterpieces by celebrated artists. Nothing could be more vibrant than Turner's large, immaculately preserved panorama of Dordrecht, while Constable is seen at his most agitated

in a headlong canvas of Hadleigh Castle. Although the centre's collection does not extend very far into the present century, its ebullient director, Patrick McCaughey, has ensured that the reopening is marked by three stimulating shows devoted to pre-eminent modern artists. The Entrance Court is filled with carvings and bronzes by Henry Moore, concentrating on his preoccupation with the "heroic" figure. Some of the finest pieces were made between the wars, when Moore concentrated on carving. *The Reclining Woman*, loaned by Ottawa, hewn from Green Hornstone in 1930, is among the most satisfying of all his attempts to fuse female and landscape forms.

But most of Moore's exhibits are post-1945, when he began to favour bronze and embarked on a sequence of family groups. Inspired perhaps by the birth of Moore's own child, they look like an attempt to affirm optimism after the Holocaust. After a time, though, disquiet breaks out. In a small *Mother and Child* from Washington, the offspring seems bent on biting the proffered maternal breast. And two large *Warrior* figures, among

attempts to fuse female and landscape forms.

Moore's few attempts to explore the male form, show brutally severed victims scarcely capable of holding shields to protect themselves from further assault.

In this respect, they are surprisingly close to the emotions generated by another show upstairs: a Francis Bacon retrospective. The range of Bacon's art is here, from a phantom-like *Crucifixion* painted in 1933 to a mysterious, impulsive *Jet of Water* painted a few years before his death. The Yale survey does compelling justice to the flowering of the artist's vision, displayed in intimate spaces that intensify the theatricality of Bacon's art.

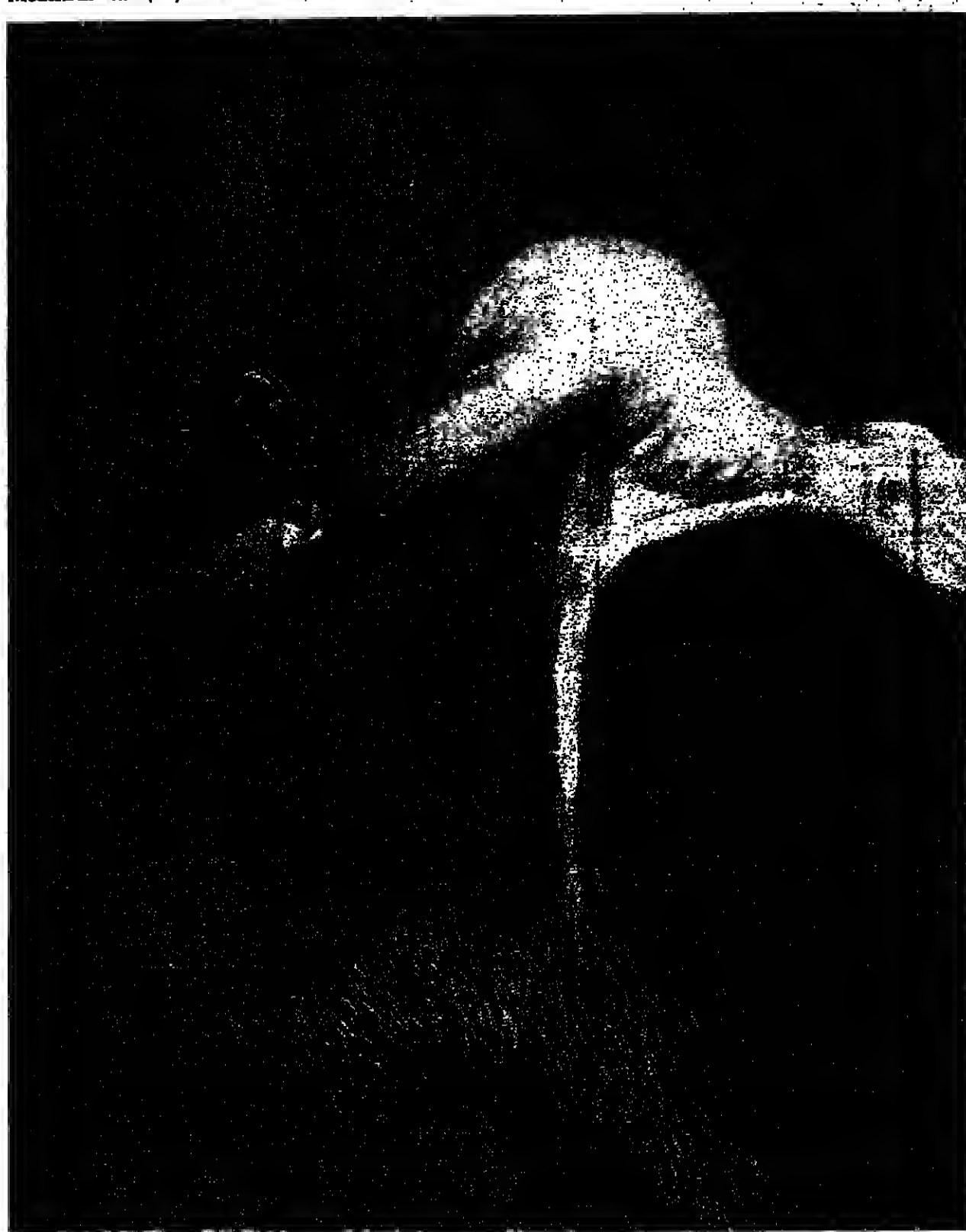
Another painter who came to maturity after the war, Lucian Freud, is scrutinised in the third show. It concentrates on his etchings alone, lent by the PaineWebber Art Collection. They provide a remarkably absorbing insight into Freud's achievement, even though he abandoned etching for three decades after an initial involvement with the medium during the 1940s.

Starting with his resumption of interest in 1982, the survey charts Freud's probing, alert scrutiny of heads and bodies alike. Most of them close on the sitter, fascinated above all by the human face's capacity to disclose individuals at their most stoical, contemplative and solitary. Freud's mastery increases as the exhibition proceeds, and his latest prints arrive at a magisterial command of a medium he was born to explore.

● Bacon, Freud and Moore at the Yale Centre for British Art (001-203 432 2800), 1080 Chapel St, New Haven, Connecticut, until Mar 21



Modern masters: (left) Lucian Freud's *Lord Goodman in his Yellow Pyjamas* (1987); Henry Moore's *Reclining Woman* (1930)



The full range of Francis Bacon's work is on show at Yale University in Connecticut, including *Untitled* (1943 or 1944)

## Gluck runs out in the gloom

ORPHEUS may have to cross the River Styx and go through Hades to find his beloved Eurydice, but that is no good reason for Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* with Stygian gloom. Martha Clarke, the American choreographer who has returned to the Coliseum to direct her unlovely 1997 production, seems more intent than ever on putting massive obstacles between Gluck's score and the audience. She shunts the admirable ENO chorus off to the side-stage boxes so that they do not get in the way of her dancers.

She then allows her designer, John Conklin, to strew the stage with jagged boulders,

presenting problems for the ballet corps of eight in the *Dances of the Blessed Spirits*. The new Orpheus, the Polish counter-tenor Artur Stefanowicz, literally has to stumble his way through the murk. His voice is clean and even, although it tends to lose power in the lower register. His English is less good and does scant justice to Anne Ridler's crisp translation. But *Che farò* was sung with deep feeling, very slowly, and tenderly supported by the Baroque expert, Roy Goodman, in his house debut. Margaret Richardson was

much clearer as Eurydice, as her soprano flowed easily through bafflement at Orpheus's behaviour to outright anguish. Mary Nelson's Amor would have more impact had the costume designer, Jane Greenwood, given her something half decent to wear. Grungy, outsize black overcoats were the order of the day. Even here Martha Clarke miscalculates.

After entombing Gluck between the dry ice of Hades and one of Greece's rockier places, she suddenly decides to have a frolic. The dancers toss a skeleton high into the air with the help of a sheet, like medical students having ribald fun during

rag week. Simultaneously a flaxen-haired moppet strews rose petals in the path of Orpheus and Eurydice. Their daughter?

Crudity meets kitsch in an evening where contemporary dance clashes with Gluck.

JOHN HIGGINS

## A dream of a theme

A SUCCESSION of standing ovations at the Festival Hall failed, thank goodness, to squeeze any encores out of the pianist Maurizio Pollini at the end of a recital of late Beethoven Bagatelles and Variations. The unhysterical warmth of that applause recognised the consummatory stature of Pollini's performance of the *Diabelli Variations*.

Pollini announced the theme with frisky mischief, soon transmuted into a tongue-in-cheek, toy-soldier march. By the third variation Beethoven's and Pollini's intellects were busy tying musical knots which were as speedily unravelled in the playful rhythms of the fourth and the one-man-band flamboyance of the fifth.

After the pianistic stroboscopic lighting of the tenth variation's rapid octaves, it was time for transformation. From

reverence for the works sometimes tempted him to keep just too tight a grip on the music. But in the last great Op 126 Pollini's grasp of the cumulative power of their alternating moods fused in a final envoi of perfect expressive proportion.

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# Halfway up the heights

One of the most haunting love stories in the language, staged on home ground (or near enough) by a theatre at the top of its game, I had high hopes for this production. But Emily Brontë's masterpiece, with its multiple narrators and its rough-hewn emotions rooted in the Yorkshire Moors, is notoriously resistant to the overtures of lesser talents. So it proves with Malcolm Sutherland's new adaptation, which he also directs, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

The biggest problem is the script. It simply tries to do too much, and ends up as little more than a drawn-out synopsis.

## THEATRE

Many an earlier version, including the Olivier-Leigh film, made do with the first half of the novel, throwing in the towel after Cathy's death. Sutherland bravely ploughs on to the end. He sensibly rearranges events in chronological order, but even so the innumerable short scenes are abruptly truncated.

Which means that few of the characters are given enough breath to establish themselves, let alone their relationships with each other. Heathcliff and Cathy are treated no better than the rest. Sutherland whips through their childhood in a couple of minutes. You have to take their growing attraction on trust from the narrator, the servant Nelly Dean, who has unwisely been retained. Nelly is the linchpin of the novel — her matter-of-fact narration makes the wild passions she describes at once more believable and more extraordinary. But though she is capably played by Jacqueline King, having her on stage throughout dilutes the drama. Unfortunately, too, while newcomer Elisabeth Dermot-



Rough stuff: Chook Sibtain as Heathcliff and Elisabeth Dermot-Walsh as Cathy in Malcolm Sutherland's half-hearted *Wuthering Heights*

Walsh makes an appealing Cathy. Chook Sibtain's clumsy performance captures none of Heathcliff's diabolical charm. Where he should be seething, he acts petulant, where brooding, vacant. Much more characterful are Cathy Sara as Catherine, the

sweet-natured daughter of Cathy and Edgar, and Ed Purver as the lily-livered Linton, son of Heathcliff and Isabella. Sutherland slows the pace down towards the end, and their scenes together are sharply observed. Michelle Abrams is as good as Edgar's sappy

py sister Isabella, but elsewhere the acting and directing are mostly leaden. The ingenious set, by Robin Don, is likewise ambitious but flawed. Several levels of two houses — the Heights and Edgar's Grange — pivot in and out on either side of the

stage. This pushes much of the action into the corners, though it also cleverly allows several scenes to go on in tandem. The rest is bare but for some gauze screens, on to which are projected images of rocks, flowers and scudding clouds — not to mention a scan of a baby in

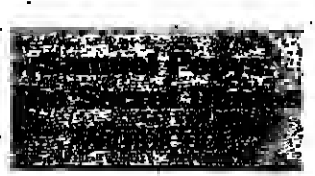
the womb. Echoing the novel's multiple layers and conflation of symbolism and realism is an admirable intention, but the literalism is deadening, and like much else it ends up seeming merely half-hearted.

NIGEL CLIFF

# A cluttered history lesson

Years ago Crewe, junction was a sort of Joe Allen's for the humbler variety of thespian. On Sundays companies going from Liverpool to Birmingham, or Aberystwyth to Leeds, would stop there for a change of trains, a chat, maybe a fishpaste sandwich. Most troupes these days are tiny tribes buzzing about in vans; but a few still make the traditional tour of the larger regional theatres, presenting worthy plays on slim budgets and seldom if ever ending in the West End. A prime example would, I suppose, be Good Company, which has spent a decade criss-crossing the country with the likes of Penella Fielding, Jonathan Cecil and Miriam Karlin in work varying from *Pride and Prejudice* to Sue Townsend's *Ear, Nose and Throat*.

This week Good Company is ensconced in Crewe itself, justifying and not quite justifying its defiantly downright name with Dennis Saunders's informative but clunky dramatisation of Pepys's life during the phase, 1660 to 1669, when he wrote his *Diaries*. I could have waited to see the show until it hit Guildford, Canterbury or Brighton, but an interest in the subject and an admiration for the underrated Edward de Souza, who sounds more like a bravura trumpet solo than any actor living, drew me to the Wimbledon Theatre last week.



Saunders and his director, Sue Ramsey, have rejected the simplicity that gave us Roy Doornick and (recently) Michael Williams doddering about a cluttered room mulling out extracts from Evelyn's diaries, and opted for a much more ambitious approach. The balconies of two houses jut out over characters that include Charles II, royal mistresses from Lady Castlemaine to a briefly glimpsed Nell Gwyn, and politicians galore. De Souza gives his vocal all to the task of evoking a profit-obsessed City banker, but, like everyone bar Nick Wilton's wonderfully flummoxed if uncharismatic Pepys, does not have a very rounded role.

A major problem is the political complexity of a decade which began in a spirit of post-Puritan relief and, after plague, the Great Fire, wars with the Dutch, lechery at court and financial corruption everywhere, ended with men yearning for another Cromwell. The evening sometimes

feels like a cluttered history lesson. Moreover, the dialogue tends to mix the authentically old with the plunkingly new ("If we do good it will help us live down our past as Puritans"), and the visual imagination seldom amounts to more than signalling the plague with scurrying figures holding kerchiefs to their mouths and wailing "God have mercy".

Yet it is hard to resist Wilton's Pepys, with his earnest patriotism, bad eyes and lousy hair, his forlorn attempts to cling on to his integrity and decorum despite temptations that include bribes, women and the theatre. Imagine the soul of a sensualist in the body of a dumpy penguin, or Casanova transformed into the school swot, and you have a most appealing performance.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## All in the songs

The Trash Can Sinatras belong to an estimable tradition of literate Scottish pop bands who meld metaphors and melodies to quite brilliant effect. Orange Juice and Aztec Camera would be their most obvious predecessors but the Kilmarnock-based group have never enjoyed the same level of commercial success.

Rather they have skulked around on the fringes of cult-dom, retaining a small but fiercely loyal and quite fanatical following over the course of the past ten years. Despite having kept a public profile only marginally lower than Salman Rushdie's for the past three years and, at time of writing, no record deal to help to relaunch their career, the Trash Can Sinatras managed to draw a more than healthy crowd to Dublin's Mean Fiddler on Friday. I spoke to one fan who had travelled all the way from Chicago especially for the gig.

## POP

**Trash Can Sinatras**  
DUBLIN

The band have, however, just completed a brief but successful tour of Japan and it seems the tide may be turning their way as there is talk of an imminent recording contract. Indeed, it takes confidence to begin a show with new, unfamiliar material but that's what Frank Reader and his chums did. In truth, it was a pretty subdued, low-key start but nevertheless there were some beautiful flourishes courtesy of Paul Livingston and John Douglas's twin chiming guitars and Reader's mournful vocals, the tone and phrasing of which carries over more distinct echoes of Morrissey's.

Indeed, at times the Trash Can Sinatras sounded as if they were playing lost out-takes from the Smiths' first album — an impression reinforced by the presence of a Hammond organ. I, for one, was not complaining.

Moreover, a cursory scan of the venue reveals a constituency of bespectacled, serious-minded, single blokes who, one suspects, once had Morrissey posters tacked to their walls. They greet the melodic and discreet charm of the likes of *Hayfever*, *The Hairy Years* and *The Saffroncracker* with open hearts as well and new songs, like *Duty Free*, with open minds.

If there is a fault it is in the presentation; there is precious little visual stimulation at work here. At worst, the six-piece unit that is the Trash Can Sinatras live experience has the stage presence of a drum monitor.

But what they lack in theatrical dynamics they make up for in their handling of the basics, ie, the songs. *I've Seen Everything* — the title track of their second album — is an irresistible blast of perfect guitar pop

NICK KELLY

## This week in THE TIMES



## POP

Neil Diamond sings some of his countless hits during a five-night run at Wembley. **OPENING GIG:** Tonight. **REVIEW:** Wednesday



## THEATRE

Klaus Maria Brandauer depicts Hitler's architect in *Speer at the Alameda*. **OPENS:** Tomorrow. **REVIEW:** Thursday



## MUSIC

German Lieder at the Wigmore with burnished baritone Thomas Hampson. **CONCERT:** Thursday. **REVIEW:** Saturday



## FILM

Comic relief: Robin Williams uses laughter as a cure-all in *Patch Adams*. **RELEASED:** Friday. **REVIEW:** Thursday

PLUS: Sadler's Wells's first in-the-round production, by Green Candle Dance Co



Sophie Walker as Pepys's wife Elizabeth and Nick Wilton as the great diarist in the Good Company production

## OPERA & BALLET

**COLISEUM 011 552 8300 (24H)**  
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA  
The 730 LAST NIGHT LA TRAVIATA

## THEATRES

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# Who are you kidding, Mr Blair?

It is time to face economic reality in Europe, says Peter Shore

What Britain and the Government need is not the launch of an expensive pre-referendum campaign on the euro, disguised as a purely technical and preparatory National Changeover Plan, but a total rethink of our whole position on Europe and the euro.

To start with, the Prime Minister must face the fact that, like so many of his predecessors, he has failed to recognise — or blinded himself to — the central reality of European politics: namely, that the persistent, powerful and now dominant intent of a clear majority of the EU's member states is to establish a close political union, leading as rapidly as possible to a fully integrated European state.

This purpose has been clear to anyone who has followed events in Europe since the negotiation of the Maastricht treaty in the late 1980s. In the run-up to the launch of the euro on January 1, more and more European political leaders have stated in public, loud and clear, that this is their basic intent.

More, the whole political enterprise has been given an additional very powerful and public thrust by the new German Government in the statements of Chancellor Schröder, Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, and the Minister for Europe, Günther Verheugen; and not one of the euroland 11 has attempted to contradict them. These facts by themselves require a major British rethink.

Shortly before the 1997 general election, Tony Blair summed up his European policy in two clear sentences: "New Labour will have no truck with a European superstate" and "If there are those in Europe who want a federal superstate, we would refuse to go along".

Assuming that he still holds to that position — and even allowing for a large element of fudge and self-deception, as when he and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, persuaded themselves in November 1997 that the single currency didn't raise important political or constitutional matters, only questions of economic advantage or disadvantage — intellectual honesty simply will not allow him the pretence any longer that there is not a fundamental and unbridgeable gap between the basic aims of the United Kingdom and those of our European partners. They do want a federal state — super or not — as could not have been proclaimed more clearly than in Joschka Fischer's address to the Strasbourg Parliament on January 16. There is scarcely a political leader in Europe who does not see and welcome the euro as a giant step towards that overtly political end. Do we, Mr Prime Minister, still "refuse to go along"?

Scarcely less importantly, the Prime Minister and most certainly the Chancellor, must rethink Britain's basic macro-economic stance inside the European Union. Even before the 1997 general election, and

on almost every opportunity since, the Chancellor has gone out of his way — and the Prime Minister has unhappily indicated his agreement — to endorse the most monetarist and deflationary provisions of Maastricht.

So we have heard the endless celebration of "golden rules" of budgetary finance: the eulogies paid to prudence, particularly the prudence embodied in the treaty's restrictions on government borrowing, backed up by the heavy financial penalties and fines of the Stability Pact. And, if that wasn't enough, we have had the Chancellor's surrender of control over interest rate policy — and exchange rate policy as well — and his enthusiastic endorsement of the European Central Bank, with its total independence from any political control and a commitment to price stability which overrides any concerns about employment and economic expansion.

Under the Germany of Chancellor Kohl, the ECB's restrictive, deflationary monetarist doctrines were written into the Maastricht treaty. Now, after electoral changes across Europe as well as in Germany itself, there is a new regime under Chancellor Schröder committed above all to economic expansion and to a reduction of unemployment.

In the present conditions of economic near-recession in the euro-zone's core countries, this means cuts in interest rates; it also means increases in public expenditure and borrowing, and possibly cuts in taxation as well. Such policies are in contradiction to the treaty. Hence, the clash between German ministers and Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Central Bank and Mario Monti, the European tax commissioner.

So, whom and what do Mr Blair and Mr Brown now support? Are they still the sturdy upholders of rectitude and the unchanged Maastricht treaty, or do they stand with the European majority and their Social Democrat allies in seeking a totally different policy direction? At Milan last week, with his renewed emphasis on the need for flexibility in labour markets — and his contrasting of American economic success with European failure — the Prime Minister seemed to be opting clearly for the latter.

If so, Mr Blair is going to find himself — and this is quite apart from euro-land's renewed drive for indirect tax harmonisation, its assault upon "unfair tax competition" and Britain's "unfair" budget rebate — in a position very similar to that faced by John Major a few years ago: that is, the isolation of Britain within the European Union. This is the very situation that in the past Mr Blair swore to avoid and for which he attributed blame solely to Tory incompetence and division. Reality at last?

Lord Shore of Stoney is the chairman of Labour's Euro-Safeguards Campaign  
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He is facing a situation very like that of Major



## An Englishman abroad

The poll figures may look better, but Blair is widely resented in Scotland

How much would you trust a Labour Government to stand up for the interests of Britain? That is one of the bigger differences between Tony Blair's administration and John Major's. After Britain was forced out of the European exchange system in 1993, most people lost faith in the ability of the Conservatives to stand up for Britain's interests; the biggest task for William Hague's Opposition is to recover that confidence. Nobody doubted that Margaret Thatcher would stand up for British interests, however much they disliked particular aspects of her Government. That was why she won general elections of 1979, 1983 and 1987, a record run.

This is what makes the answer to the same question in Scotland so damaging for Labour. "How much would you trust a Scottish Labour Government to stand up for the interests of Scotland?" That was one of the questions in last week's poll in *The Scotsman*. Only 15 per cent said "a lot". Thirty-three per cent said "a little", and another 23 per cent would distrust it "a lot". It is the 15 per cent that matters. The campaign for the Scottish parliament is about standing up for Scotland. It is not about independence, at any rate not yet. It is about the representation of Scottish interests inside the United Kingdom: 85 per cent of Scottish voters lack full confidence in Labour as Scotland's advocate.

No one, I think, doubts that the Scottish Nationalists would stand up for Scotland. There are many fears about the dangers of Nationalist policy. Many Scottish voters do accept Labour arguments that the SNP would damage Scottish interests by pursuing them too divisively. Alex Salmond's reassurances about a "friendly divorce" are intended to counter these arguments. Yet on the central question, whether the SNP would be a tough advocate of Scottish interest, a general answer is "if anything, too tough".

The other poll findings have some good and some bad news for Labour. Voting intentions could be worse. Labour has moved to a ten-point lead over the SNP; about a quarter of respondents prefer the Conservatives or the Liberal Democrats, and a quarter of all voters are still undecided. If this poll proves correct — the Scottish election is not until May 6 — *The Scotsman* calculates that Labour would win 59 seats, six short of a majority, the

SNP 42, Conservatives 15, and Liberal Democrats 13.

So far, so good for Labour. The problem will be turnout. Can the Scottish Labour Party get its voters to the polls? Recent English local government by-elections show how serious this problem could be, though the first elections to a Scottish parliament will be much more exciting than any local government by-election. In these English by-elections, the Labour Party has been performing about 10 per cent below its opinion poll ratings. The Conservatives, in the South and Midlands, and the Liberal Democrats, in the North, have been performing about 10 per cent above theirs. Nationwide opinion polls suggest another Labour landslide at a general election; local government results suggest a hung Parliament.

Apathy is Labour's enemy in Scotland. The answers to some other poll questions show how little enthusiasm there is among Scottish Labour voters. Forty-one per cent of Labour voters, and 53 per cent of all voters, think that a Labour victory will not make much difference to Scotland. There is a groundswell of anti-English and anti-Blair feeling. Fifty-one per cent, even of Labour voters, think that Tony Blair should keep out of the Scottish election. He is seen as an Englishman, running an English Government. That sounds more like support for independence than for continued devolution inside the United Kingdom.

From the Scottish point of view, Mr Blair is believed to have opted for devolution in form but for what Diane Abbott called "command and control" in practice. Some problems are coming up already. The SDA Act retained broadcasting as a Westminster responsibility. The BBC, which has been fighting Scottish broadcasting autonomy for the past quarter century, has responded with two wrong-headed decisions. BBC Scotland wants to

run the news from six o'clock to seven in the evening as a Scottish operation, covering news from a Scottish point of view. The BBC governors have refused to allow this. Scotland will continue to get *News at Six* from London. The governors have also decided not to provide live coverage of the new Scottish parliament — a provocative decision.

It is not only the BBC which is refusing to make even the mildest concessions. Deals are being worked out in Whitehall to define the boundaries of power between London and Edinburgh. An early decision which has angered Scotland is that the Treasury, of all departments, is to be given power to control the Scottish parliament's spending on inward investment. This is opposed by the Liberal Democrats as well as by the SNP. It is resented by the Labour Left in Scotland. There are many more such decisions to come.

The voting intention figures do, therefore, look better for Labour than the attitudes or policy issues. Yet most people, even in Scotland, assume there will be a coalition between Labour and the Liberal Democrats to govern Scotland. It remains a possibility but it will not be that easy. The Liberal Democrats have their own agenda: they will not come into a coalition without a bargaining process. If Labour does less well than is now expected, the Lib Dems will be reluctant to share Labour's declining popularity.

There is also the Labour Left to reckon with. Donald Dewar could form a coalition with the Liberal Democrats only if he reached agreed terms with his own left wing. He knows that. In Blairite London, the Left has been excluded from high office, save for one or two token trustees. In Edinburgh, John McAllion, the Labour MP for Dundee East, has been made one of 20 campaign spokesmen. To quote Ian Bell in *The Scotsman*, McAllion "is behaving like a candidate confident

of his ability to offer an alternative to Blairism... by placing the interests of the Scottish people, as he understands them, above any other loyalty, he is charting a course towards maximum autonomy for Labour in Scotland. So he comes within an inch of saying that the Scottish party should not in principle be opposed to Scottish independence."

How has Mr Blair responded to this challenging situation? In Glasgow, on Friday, he acknowledged the divisions in his party by an eloquent appeal for unity from old and new Labour, from Social Democrats and Socialists alike. He also repeated past attempts to frighten people away from the SNP. He used a tax scare, much the same theme as helped the Tories to defeat Labour in the 1992 general election. He said an SNP victory would cost every family in Scotland an extra £30 a week in taxes.

The Scottish Labour Left is worried by this Nat-bashing, particularly when it comes from someone they do not regard as a Scot. They feel that Nat-bashing can come too close to Scot-bashing: they do not accept that Scotland can survive only on English subsidies; they do want to increase state power, but they want that power to be in Edinburgh. John McAllion speaks of his sympathy with "people comfortable with their own Scottish identity". The Nationalists certainly feel comfortable with their own Scottish identity.

The English have not yet fully woken up to the historic importance of this first election for the Scottish parliament. Labour is likely still to be the largest party in Scotland, but its difficulties are serious. They will find it hard to get out their vote in May; they are divided between a minority of new Blairites and a majority of old or Left Labour; they see Blair himself as a middle-class English outsider. Many Labour voters sympathise with the Nationalists. Labour has had power for too long in Scottish local government, and there has been too much sleaze. If Labour does form the first Scottish government, it will be nothing like a clone of new Labour. The Scottish parliament will inevitably challenge the Westminster Parliament. Even if it is Labour, the first Scottish government will be the first post-Blair government to gain power in Britain.

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William Rees-Mogg

## 'Moscow's teenaged black-marketeers seemed a lot more benign than my English friends, who were taking Ecstasy and shoplifting'

There is an unspoken understanding among Russians that anyone involved in big business or politics is essentially a crook and, try as you might, you usually end up conceding that this is true. Ask a Russian what she thinks of any of the key presidential contenders, or the businessmen who support them, and she will shrug and, depending on her politics, will say either: "Well, he's the best of a bad lot," or: "Everybody knows he's backed by the mafia." (I use a female example because it is International Women's Day today — a public holiday on which women sometimes receive presents and men invariably get drunk.)

Under communism, anybody doing business privately was contravening Soviet law, and the impression that business is illegal, that people earning large sums of money must be criminal,

has stuck. As for politicians, they were always considered deeply compromised people who had probably squealed on their enemies and had certainly taken innumerable bribes.

Nowadays, when accountability has all but disappeared, they must. It is universally assumed by the average conspiracy-theorist Russian, be even worse.

For a foreigner, it can be tempting to believe that it is too easy to write off all the new millionaires as mafiosos and murderers, when perhaps they are no worse than Richard Branson or Bill Gates, and to dismiss politicians as power-crazed crooks, when they might be Nelson Mandelas inside.

Looking at Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, one longs to think: "Perhaps, despite his Communist background and years as a spy, he is really an idealist and a visionary who wants the best

for the Russian people." When you size up Boris Yeltsin, it is almost possible to be charitable. "So he was a car dealer? Is that really so awful?" one says hopefully.

After all, the teenaged black-marketeers who used to stand outside tourist hotels changing your dollars into roubles and touting Russian military hats, watches and belts in return for jeans and electronic goods would have got up to 15 years in prison under communism. It was just a difference in perception. To me, they seemed a lot more benign and law-abiding than my English friends of the same age who were taking Ecstasy and shoplifting.

Of course, one is quickly shaken out of one's idealistic

reverie when one talks to an intelligent Russian, or to anyone trying to do business here. "Oh, come on!" they sigh. "So where do you think all the oil goes when it disappears off the face of the earth after going into the pipeline? Do you honestly believe they didn't know in advance that the currency would collapse on August 17?" Sergei Kiriyenko, the former Prime Minister who is widely held responsible for the economic catastrophe, was seen by a British banker in the ski resort of Zermatt in January, relaxing in the sauna at the resort's most expensive hotel. "If you got rich in the past ten years here, you robbed the Russian people and that's that," they sneer.



Anna Blundy

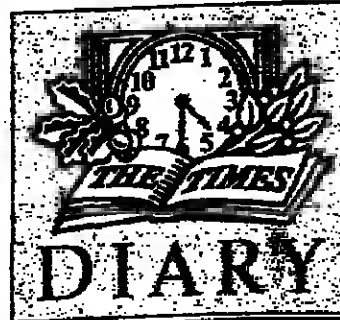
The outrage is compounded by the fact that so many people have had their lives altered beyond recognition, and for the worse, by the collapse of communism, and yet they have had to stand by while a fortunate few have started holidaying in Barbados, settling their families in London and banking in Switzerland. (The community of sons and daughters of eminent Russians in London has become so large that the Moscow gossip-columns are now full of stories from Knightsbridge, where it is considered vulgar to ask a new acquaintance exactly who his or her parents are.)

The world is aware that the life savings of millions of people were annihilated last August and, though one man did go and hold up a bank on Friday demanding the \$20,000 he had lost, most have taken this devastating blow in their stride,

accepting it as just another sign that you can't trust anyone, that capitalists and politicians are fundamentally corrupt. And the trouble is, they are.

The economic crisis has sent hundreds of Western bankers, accountants, lawyers, businessmen and economists hurtling homewards (and those who are staying barely have time to do any work, what with the endless round of leaving parties) and has left their Russian colleagues driving taxis. The bleak joke I heard from an economist last week about Anatoli Chubais, one of the original architects of Russian economic reform and now head of Russian state electricity, is depressingly pertinent. "Due to technical reasons," says Chubais, "the light at the end of the tunnel has been temporarily switched off."

comment@the-times.co.uk



## Pigging out

AFTER rolling in something rather pungent of late, Viscount Cranborne is to stride from the political stage — to set up a rare-breeds farm for his beloved pigs.

The Tory toff who crossed William Hague has vowed never to return to the Lords in its new egalitarian guise; instead, he will devote himself to bucolic intrigues at Cranborne Manor. "Pigs are the most charming, restful and clean characters. I have always loved them," he muses. "My wife gave me a Tamworth sow for Christmas."

He has a small collection, some of which are pets. "I talk to them and they talk back. You can tell when they are down in the dumps. And they are very good to eat." He reassures me: "I do not give them names if I am going to eat them."

He is convinced there is now a market for pukka pigs. His only fear? That he will be mistaken for P.G. Wodehouse's Lord Emsworth, who christened a sow Empress of Blandings and cared little for literature since *Whiffle on the Care of the Pig*. Soon Cranborne will say goodbye to all the Lord Emsworths: "The Lords has no interest left to me. I have been excluded."



FAY WELDON admits in next month's *Harpers & Queen* that she stole her first love from her best friend. He drove a Harley Davidson, and seems to have left quite an impression: "Still the sound of a motorbike pulling up... what, only the courier?"

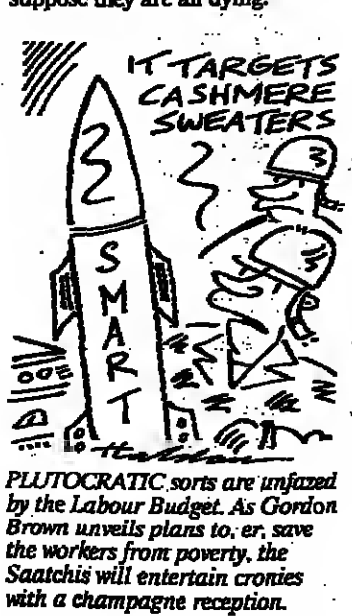
THE socially audacious schemer, not to be confused with Jane Proctor, *Tatler* Editor, right, is thought perfect for *Tatler* (suitably aged). Nicholas Coleridge, publisher of the magazine, is unlikely to be barrelling along with his popcorn.

WRITER'S block is to be the subject of a conference in Los Angeles, addressed by John le Carré. As the pulp fictionist has churned out a book every couple of years since 1961, it is a condition from which I doubt he has ever suffered, sadly.

SHELLSUIT man is to gain entry to clubland. The Naval and Military, known to cabbies as the In and Out, is advertising for members, the first time a gentleman's club has done so.

The club, now in digs in St James's Square, has advertised in the *Literary Review*, thus undermining that fine tradition the blackball. John Stevens, retired naval officer and deputy secretary, was caught unawares when I called: "I shall raise the matter with the marketing department on Monday morning."

Kenneth Rose, the eminent historian, says: "It's extraordinary. A lot joined in the war, when there was an enormous Army and Navy. I suppose they are all dying."



PLUTOCRATIC sorts are unfazed by the Labour Budget. As Gordon Brown unveils plans to, er, save the workers from poverty, the Saatchis will entertain cronies with a champagne reception.

comment@the-times.co.uk

JASPER GERARD











## OBITUARIES

## STANLEY KUBRICK

Stanley Kubrick, film-maker, died yesterday at his Hertfordshire home aged 70. He was born in New York on July 26, 1928.

A powerful and uncompromising talent, Stanley Kubrick first came to prominence with a scathing treatment of the hypocrites of war in *Paths of Glory* (1957) and went on to make a succession of distinctive individual films, each completely different from the one before. He could move from the outrageous black comedy of *Dr. Strangelove* (1964), to the calmer, more cerebral approach of *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968), one of his most remarkable films. Likewise, he could make films as totally different as the nightmare vision of *A Clockwork Orange* and his exploration of the machinations of the 18th-century officer class in *Barry Lyndon*.

Yet there were common factors. His work was infused with a deep pessimism about his fellow creatures, whom he often portrayed as being unable to control their destiny. He had a penchant for subversive humour. Technically he was a master of his craft, with a striking visual sense and the ability to handle complicated narratives. He could work with equal facility in a number of styles, from documentary realism to the furthest flights of fantasy.

Kubrick was a meticulous director who often spent years in the preparation and shooting of a film, planning each shot with obsessive precision. This inevitably limited his output and a new film every four to five years became his norm. It also, according to his critics, produced a detached and impersonal quality, a charge particularly levelled against his later films. But it was in the nature of Kubrick's work to divide critical opinion, arousing the extremes of adulation and censure. He was a director about whom it was impossible to be neutral.

He was born in the Bronx district of New York, the son of a doctor, who encouraged him to take up

photography as a hobby. Infatuated with the cinema from boyhood, he got his first job at 16 as a staff photographer on the magazine *Look*. The transition from still photography to movies came in 1950 when he directed a 16-minute documentary about a boxer, *Day of the Fight*, which he sold to RKO-Pathé. There was another documentary and then, in 1953, his first feature, *Fear and Desire*, a low budget film made with money borrowed from relatives and friends. It was virtually a one-man show, with Kubrick performing all the directing and production functions: writing the script, directing, filming and loading the camera.

He similarly financed his next film, *Killer's Kiss* (1955), which he based on his own original screenplay about a boxer who rescues a girl from the clutches of a gangster. Less important than the banal story was Kubrick's inventive direction (again, he performed most of the other functions, too), with several touches worthy of a filmmaker of far greater experience. He was now ready to move from B pictures to main features.

In partnership with the producer James B. Harris, he was able to get backing from United Artists for *The Killing* (1956), a taut thriller about a race-track robbery. The theme, of the perfect crime that goes wrong, had been used many times in Hollywood, but Kubrick gave it a new life with his crisp and confident handling. He also drew vivid performances from seasoned character actors such as Sterling Hayden and Elisha Cook. It was his first work to receive serious attention from reviewers.

With the release in the following year of *Paths of Glory*, Kubrick, still not yet 30, emerged as a stroke into the front rank of American directors. Set on the Western Front in the First World War, the film follows the fate of three ordinary French soldiers who are court-martialled and executed after a disastrous sortie in order to save the face of the high command. It was a triumph on all levels, as an exploration of character and motive, for its dramatic qualities and,

not least, a superb piece of filmmaking which drew graphic contrasts between the lot of the men in the trenches and the comfortable existence of the officers commanding them.

A big critical success, *Paths of Glory* failed only moderately at the box office and since Kubrick had worked not for a salary but for a percentage of the profits, a lean time lay ahead of him. Kubrick had to wait two years for his next film. *Spartacus* (1960) was an assignment offered to him when the original director, Anthony Mann, withdrew. It was the only film in his career Kubrick did not choose to make. But he handled the conventions of the big-budget Hollywood epic with considerable flair and if he regarded the film as a chore, it is one of the more intelligent examples of the genre.

In 1961 Kubrick moved to Britain, feeling that this would offer him greater independence, and from now on his work was based in this country. His first British film, ironically, was set in the United States: *Lolita* (1962), an adaptation of Vladimir Nabokov's novel about the infatuation of a middle-aged lecturer (brilliantly played by James Mason) with a 14-year-old girl. The picture was notable for Kubrick's black humour and contained a memorably manic supporting performance from Peter Sellers.

Both black comedy and Sellers were strongly featured in Kubrick's nuclear war fantasy, *Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*. Sellers played three parts, including the mad doctor of the title, a latter-day Nazi masterminding the American nuclear programme, and the film was a joyous amalgam of satire and farce to service of the ultimately tragic subject, the destruction of the world.

For *2001: A Space Odyssey*, Kubrick moved boldly away from traditional story-telling, with its emphasis on dialogue and character, and relied instead on the suggestive power of visual imagery. Kubrick called *2001* a "non-verbal experience" and it is half an

hour before any words are spoken. In tracing the journey of a group of astronauts towards Jupiter, years into the future, Kubrick was helped by some of the most astonishing special effects seen in the cinema up to that time.

In 1971 Kubrick made his most controversial film, *A Clockwork Orange*, a bleak view of a society dominated by mindless violence. The picture was criticised for parading what it was seeking to condemn, though the potency of Kubrick's vision (suggested by the novel by Anthony Burgess) was undeniable. Coming out in the midst of a national debate about the effects of violence on the screen, *A Clockwork Orange* was banned by several local authorities.

There could hardly be greater contrast between this film and *Barry Lyndon*, a long, elegantly mounted but dramatically low-key version of a minor Thackeray novel of the same title. Nor was Kubrick's reputation enhanced by *The Shining* (1980), a disappointingly indulgent excursion into the horror genre, and when, after another five-year gap, he started work on a new picture, *Full Metal Jacket*, a return to form seemed overdue. In this film, which was released in 1987, Kubrick returned to the theme of the brutalising effects of militarism and war, in what was an unsparing adaptation of a Gustav Hasford novel.

It went some way towards redeeming his reputation, though it was generally regarded as lacking the subtlety and compassion of his earlier *Paths of Glory*.

Opinion was by this time divided on Kubrick's overall merits. His detractors thought him fussy and pretentious, while to his considerable army of admirers he was simply one of the cinema's great talents. Kubrick liked to enshroud himself in mystery and at the time of his death had been working on a new film, *Eyes Wide Shut*, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, for the past two years. It is due to be released in July.

Stanley Kubrick was three times married and is survived by his wife Christiane and by three daughters.



Kubrick: technically he was master of his craft and possessed a striking visual sense

## THE EMIR OF BAHRAIN

Sheikh Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa, ruler of Bahrain since 1961, died after a heart attack on March 6 aged 65. He was born on June 3, 1933.

In a 37-year stewardship of his country, 27 of them as Emir following Bahrain's independence, Sheikh Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa had steered his country through a series of crises of the sort that are endemic in a small state surrounded by powerful and often volatile neighbours and subject to fluctuating oil prices. Bahrain had been the first Gulf state to find oil in the 1930s, but its small reserves soon dwindled. It was Sheikh Isa's personal achievement to build a future for Bahrain which emancipated his country from this shrinking asset.

Sheikh Isa based his strategy for Bahrain's future prosperity on the island's traditional position as a trading centre. He encouraged the development of banking, in which he was helped by the internal instability of Lebanon and the Israeli invasion of the country which damaged its position. Over a period of twenty years banking became the major source of Bahrain's prosperity.

Under Sheikh Isa's rule the economy of Bahrain also diversified immensely, to include mining and heavy industries, shipbuilding and iron and steel production, as well as a large aluminium smelter which has made the country the region's largest producer. He always said that his greatest single contribution to the island's prosperity was the 16-mile causeway, opened in 1986, which now links Bahrain to Saudi Arabia.

In foreign policy, Sheikh Isa forged close links with the West, particularly America, which used Bahrain as a base for the US Fifth Fleet during



Sheikh Isa: steered his country skilfully between its neighbours

the Gulf War of 1991, drawing the fire of Iraqi Scud missiles down on the island. Relations with both Iraq and Iran were consistently uneasy. In common with other Gulf states Bahrain had supported Iraq during the Iran-Iraq conflict of 1980-88. But the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 put an end to this fragile relationship and propelled Bahrain firmly into the arms of America.

Relations with Iran were similarly volatile, reflecting the tensions within Bahrain itself. The Bahrain government repeatedly accused Iran of fomenting trouble among its Shia Muslim population, which represents a slender majority in a country in which Sunni Muslims are nevertheless dominant — and provide the royal family.

Under Sheikh Isa Bahrain remained a traditional Arab

autocracy. There was a flirtation with democracy in the 1970s, with elections to a national assembly. But it was a short-lived experiment and the Emir soon reverted to personal rule. Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa was the son of Sheikh Sulman bin Hamad al-Khalifa, who had reigned over Bahrain as a British protectorate since 1942. He came to the throne in 1961, only six years after nationalist opponents had tried to unseat his father, and with the tide of republican Nasserism still flowing strongly throughout the region.

His father had used the oil revenues to institute a full welfare state system of free health and education services. But by 1961 the oil wells were nearly dry and the islands were heavily populated by a demographically young and

illiterate population, divided almost equally between Shia and Sunni Muslims. Unemployment was incipient. Furthermore, an Iranian claim to Bahrain, pursued since the 19th century, was inhibiting foreign investment and the people were highly susceptible to the trumpet blasts of subversion from revolutionary Arab capitals, characterising the ruling family as spendthrift creatures of British imperialism.

Against this background, Sheikh Isa was under some pressure from his British protectors to inaugurate democratic and administrative reform. However, his preferred method was the traditional Arab way of direct contact between ruler and people. His open council was available to all Bahrainis every day of the week, and he moved freely and without guards among his people.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s his skills were tested to the utmost. In May and June 1967, Bahrain, like the whole Arab world, was gripped by war fever which culminated in the disaster to Arab arms of the June war. In Bahrain the presence of a British military base was additionally inflammatory. Sheikh Isa maintained control of the situation and personally saved the British Political Agent from being sacked by an angry crowd by singlehandedly compelling them to disperse. Foreign businessmen visiting the islands at the time were persuaded to go ahead with investment plans by the evidence of basic stability at a moment of such high tension.

Within months of this crisis subsiding Sheikh Isa was confronted with the abrupt decision of the British Government to terminate the protective treaties with Bahrain at the end of 1971. This came as a profound shock, especially since the Iranian claim was

still unsettled and the economy had become dangerously dependent on the income and employment emanating from the substantial British military presence.

He went along with the desire of the other Gulf rulers for a federation but he privately believed, rightly as it turned out, that Bahrain would eventually have to go it alone. He co-operated with the United Nations exercise which, in 1970, brought about a settlement of the Iranian claim, while his government made strenuous efforts to stimulate the lagging economy. On August 15, 1971, Bahrain achieved its independence and became a member of the Arab League and the United Nations. The storms had been weathered and the oil boom of the 1970s brought unprecedented prosperity to the island as offshore and other businesses chose Bahrain for their headquarters as being the most congenial location in the Southern Gulf.

In the years to come, Sheikh Isa's foreign policy reflected the consensual nature of his domestic policy. He knew that a small and strategically placed country with a volatile population needs to have powerful friends and to avoid making dangerous enemies. He kept close to the centre of the Arab consensus on emotive issues such as Palestine and chose Saudi Arabia as his main protector. Under his genial exterior, Sheikh Isa concealed a shrewd and sceptical intelligence. Many a pompous visiting grandee, departing putting at the warmth of his reception, would have been surprised to hear the caustic comments made to the intimates who had stayed behind.

Late in 1972 a new constitution was promulgated, providing for direct elections to a national assembly, and these took place in the following

year. But the democratic experiment did not last. In 1975 the Prime Minister resigned, complaining that the assembly was obstructing new legislation. Later in the year the assembly was dissolved by decree.

Externally, the longstanding friction with Iran continued to pose the greatest threat to Bahrain's internal stability. The 1979 Iranian revolution brought new unease about possible future Iranian claims. In 1981 more than 70 Bahrainis were arrested after a plot to overthrow the Government, with alleged help from Iran, was discovered. Such plots were to continue to come to light throughout the decade and the one following, and there was repeated agitation from the Shia population to restore the National Assembly. When, in December 1994, a Muslim cleric, Ali Salman Ahmad Salman, was arrested for voicing these claims, there was widespread rioting throughout Bahrain, particularly in the Shia districts.

The Emir was compelled to promise to extend the powers of Bahrain's Consultative Council, but this did not appease the reformers. Riots continued into 1995, with a number of deaths.

One of them was gained in 1960, in Budapest, against Hungary. The other came in a somewhat meaningless qualifying match for the 1962 World Cup against Luxembourg. Violette, like the other England forwards, made hay.

Dennis Violette joined United as a teenager and quickly developed into an inside left whose pace, opportunism and strength compensated for the fact that he stood only 5ft 8ins. He made sporadic appearances for Manchester United until, despite its apparent marginality, he took part in what turned out to be a significant midweek friendly game at Kilmarnock in Octo-

## DENNIS VIOLETTE

Dennis Violette, former Manchester United footballer, died on March 6 at his home in Jacksonville, Florida, of cancer aged 65. He was born on September 20, 1933.

IT MAY seem anomalous to say that Dennis Violette was past his peak when he set Manchester United's championship goal-scoring record in 1959-60. But this was the opinion of the Welsh coach Jimmy Murphy, who took control of the club for some time after the Munich air crash of February 1958, in which Violette was one of the lucky survivors. The Manchester United side was on its way back from a European Cup tie in Belgrade against Red Star, in which Violette had scored a characteristically cool goal.

But Murphy's view was that, though Violette did survive the crash and play on for years to come, he was never to be quite the same player again. This may go some way to explain why, to the great disappointment of his Manchester United fans, he won only two caps for the England international team, though these, perhaps ironically, came after the Munich air disaster.

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ber 1953. Matt Busby, always ready to gamble on youth with his Busby Babes, that day preferred Violette to the celebrated inside left Stan Pearson. United won 3-0 and Busby kept Violette and two other young stars, Jackie Blanchflower and Duncan Edwards, in the team for the subsequent league game at Huddersfield.

Violette appeared in the 1958 Cup Final at Wembley against Bolton Wanderers, even though, since the Munich crash, he had played only a couple of first team games. He won a league championship medal with United in 1956-57 and was a notable performer in their various challenges for the European Cup.

Indeed, when in 1956 they thrashed Anderlecht of Belgium 10-0 in Manchester, Violette had three goals before half time and another in the second half.

In 1961, however, United somewhat unexpectedly left him to go to Stoke City where he continued to the end of his career. In 291 games he had scored 178 goals for Manchester United; for Stoke he was to make another 182 appearances scoring 59 times.

Later, he coached Crewe Alexandra, Preston North End and, in the United States, the Washington Diplomats. Latterly he had lived in the United States.

He is survived by his wife and children.



## Latest wills

Evelyn Knight, of London SW3, left estate valued at £2,066,774 net.  
Ada Amanda Rigby, of London N20, left estate valued at £2,129,457 net.  
Robert Foster Barbour, retired research chemist, of Whiteley Bay, Tyne and Wear, left estate valued at £1,008,468 net.  
Joan Dickinson, of Oxford, Sevenoaks, Kent, left estate valued at £1,668,581 net.  
Henry Walter Fahey, of St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £1,100,953 net.  
Louis Ferraz, of Newton Mearns, Glasgow, left estate valued at £1,153,614 net.  
He left £20,000 each to Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, and The Arts and Sciences Trust, £20,000 each to Newark Lodge.

Prince and Princess of Wales Hopley, and Jeffrey Carr Scotland, £2,000 to Glasgow Hebrew B'nai B'rith Society.  
Kathleen Gomersall, of Burley-in-Wharfedale, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,144,804 net.  
Arnold Ralph Goodwin, of Lower Bullingham, Hereford, left estate valued at £1,668,106 net.  
Anne Rhoda Elizabeth Hoff, of Winterbourne Houghton, Blandford Forum, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,292,032 net.  
Margaret Hudspeeth, of Hadston, Morpeth, Northumberland, left estate valued at £1,216,670 net.  
Doris Louise Johnson, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,043,728 net.  
Elena Mirella Leeson, of

Hove, East Sussex, left estate valued at £223,578 net.  
She left £20,000 to The International Fund for Animal Welfare.

George Duncan Nicholson Milne, of Sunning, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,099,515 net.  
Leonard Alfred Palmer, of Craig y Don, Llandudno, Conwy, left estate valued at £1,390,238 net.  
He left £20,000 each to RSPB Berrington Pond, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Odele Dogs for the Blind, and British Heart Foundation.  
Suzanne Mary Saxton, of Midhurst, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,282,140 net.  
Elizabeth Steinfeld, of Hampstead, London NW3, left estate valued at £1,504,571 net.  
Laura Joan Walker, of Hungerford, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,969,972 net.  
Anthony Walker, of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,873,260 net.  
Arthur Laurence White, of Staplegrave, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,471,475 net.

## HOME RULE: NO COERCION

WESTMINSTER, Wednesday  
The Irish debate in the House of Commons tonight culminated in an organised "scene". Mr Redmond, a champion of Home Rule, regarded the Prime Minister's reply to the nationalist demand for an immediate settlement on the basis of Home Rule as so unsatisfactory that he declined to take any further part in the debate, and led his followers from the Chamber. MR LLOYD GEORGE'S declaration was to the effect that the Government were prepared to grant Home Rule now to that part of Ireland which clearly demanded it, but that they could not take any action to force Home Rule on the part to which it was repugnant.

Two hours had passed before the start of the Irish debate before the PRIME MINISTER intervened to state the policy of the Government. He opened on the note that a settlement which would be acceptable to the people of Ireland as a whole would be welcomed with delight by the rest of the United Kingdom.

## ON THIS DAY

March 8, 1917

Irish affairs had been prominent in Parliament since Gladstone's first Home Rule Bill in 1886. The third one became law in 1914, but would only come into effect at the end of the war. Growing militancy by Nationalists and Unionists killed it off.

British rule into the very marrow of the Irish race, and that in the north-eastern part of Ireland the population was as hostile to Irish rule as the rest of the population was to British rule. These fundamental facts raised two questions. Were the people of this country prepared to confer self-government on those parts of Ireland which unmistakably demanded it? Were the people of this country prepared to force the population of the north-eastern corner to submit to government by a

population with which they were completely out of sympathy? He answered the first question in the affirmative and the second in the negative.

The Nationalists became noisily impatient as the Prime Minister proceeded to define the attitude of the Government. He put the points more clearly in a second speech, and the effect of it can be stated here. The Government were prepared to grant Home Rule immediately to that part of Ireland that clearly demanded it. They could not take any action to force Home Rule on the part of Ireland to which it was repugnant. In order to make the standpoint of the Government clear, the Prime Minister moved an amendment welcoming any settlement which did not involve the coercion of any part of the Irish people. Although the Prime Minister's manner throughout was conciliatory, the Nationalists greeted the end of his speech with jeers.

MR ASQUITH followed and asked with all solemnity if a united effort could not be made to throw off the Irish burden. While fully recognizing the difficulties of the situation, he made a practical contribution to the debate. He declared that the only practicable course was to invoke the intervention of some outside and impartial authority and trust to it the task of adjustment as between all the interests and sentiments concerned.

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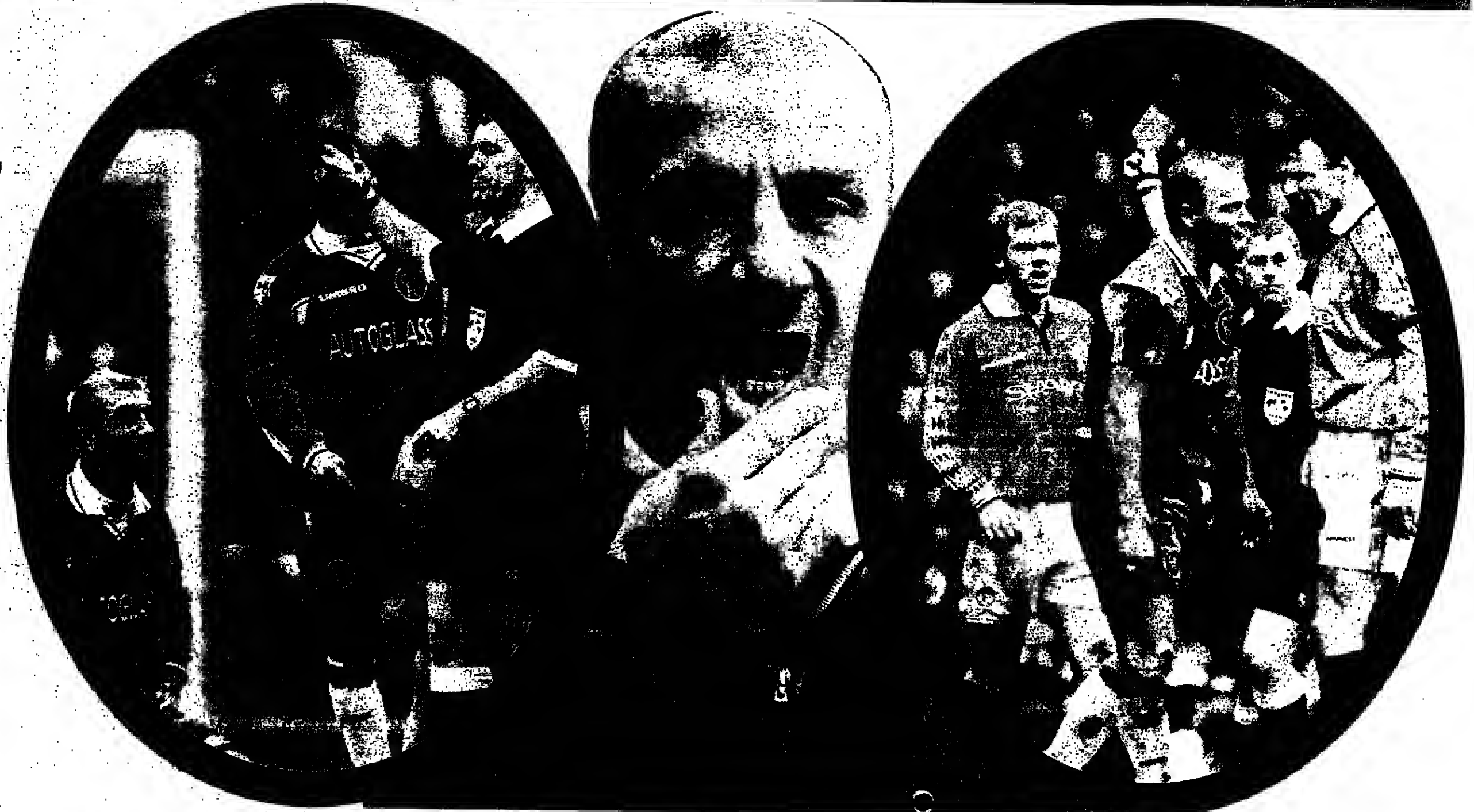








MONDAY MARCH 8 1999  
**MANAGERS PAY HEAVY PRICE FOR TRIFLING WITH FA CUP**



Nil-nil desperandum: the dismissals of Di Matteo, left, and Scholes, right, added to the cost of the FA Cup stalemate at Old Trafford yesterday for the likes of Vialli

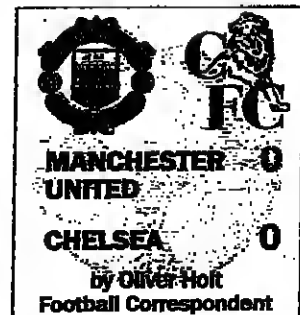
# Semi-detached rivals left to rue unwanted extension

THROUGH gritted teeth and laboured smiles, Alex Ferguson and Gianluca Vialli paid lip-service to the importance of living to fight another day in the FA Cup. When they could hide their disappointment no longer, though, their thoughts wandered to the only team who can still deprive them of a title that they hold more dear.

By their scowls yesterday, it was clear that they were thinking about Arsenal Wenger cracking open a bottle of fizzy water and toasting his old sparring partner, fixture congestion. This was the day when the FA Cup exacted its revenge on Manchester United and Chelsea.

In the past, they have managed to get away with their callous treatment of the famous old competition, riding along on their pragmatism and their shadow sides, grabbing late winners or losing gallantly, but always, always, avoiding that worst of all fates, the Scylla and Charybdis of modern football: the replay.

Ferguson, in particular, has often joked about his horror of not deciding a cup-tie at the first attempt, of wild plans to send Peter Schmeichel up with the forwards for the last five minutes if the match was in the icy grip of deadlock. The Manchester United manager stopped short of that yesterday, but, in desperation, he did bring some of the heroes of the win against Internazionale off the bench for the last 20 minutes of this quarter-final. By then, it was too late. The



replay will take place at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday, which means that United have to sacrifice their scheduled FA Cup Premier League match against Liverpool at Anfield and Chelsea their game against Middlesbrough at the Riverside Stadium.

Worse, both sides had a player sent off for two rather innocuous offences, which means that Roberto Di Matteo and Paul Scholes will miss a game in the championship run-in.

"We have got fewer games to play than Chelsea and Arsenal," Ferguson said. "If anything, it is worse for Chelsea than us, because they will find that their games start to come thick and fast now. Arsenal are the ones who will really benefit from what happened today. They are probably the favourites to win the league now."

Vialli agreed. "Both teams could have done

without another match and the winner at the end of the day is probably Arsenal, because now is a very decisive moment of the season and the fewer matches you play, the better," the Chelsea manager said.

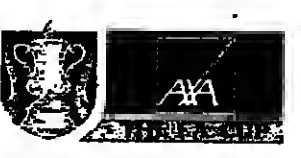
That the FA Cup has become something of a frippery was evident when Ferguson left out Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole, the forwards who have been terrifying defences from Filbert Street to the Nou Camp, and played Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as the focal point of an unfamiliar formation that was as close as United have come to dispensing with their trusted 4-4-2. Somehow, it all seemed rather half-hearted and conservative. The match itself was untidy and devoid of fluency.

Phil Neville was used, to good effect, to man-mark Gianfranco Zola and stifle what re-

mained of Chelsea's creativity, deprived as they were of Frank Leboeuf, Celestine Babayaro, Dennis Wise and Vialli himself. The result was a rather tetchy impasse, a game smothered by caution when it should have been liberated by the abandon of its lowly place in the scheme of things.

It was typical of the occasion that just when it seemed it might be cut loose from its bonds shortly before half-time, when Gary Neville had glanced a fine diving header against the face of Ed de Goeij's right-hand post, it was killed stone dead by the sending-off of Di Matteo for an ill-judged tackle on Scholes that compounded his earlier mistimed challenge on Beckham.

It is hard to criticise Paul Durkin, the referee, because, taken individually, both were bookable offences. There was no malice in either challenge



and common sense should have allowed the Italian to stay on the pitch. In a refereeing culture where the officials are punished for such diversions into sentiment, though, Durkin had little option but to administer the letter of the law.

The same applied to the dismissal of Scholes four minutes from the end for a similarly innocuous tackle on Goldback. By then, the game was all but over anyway. Chelsea, who managed just one shot on target in the game, a first-half curler from Morris that was saved easily by Schmeichel, had decided that a draw was the best they could achieve with ten men and defended so well that they earned it.

In its pursuit, De Goeij and Marcel Desailly were outstanding. The Dutch goalkeeper made his first important save in the fifth minute, hurling himself to his right to parry a stinging drive by Keane and then doing just enough to distract

Scholes as he ran on to Beckham's delightful lob over the Chelsea defence six minutes later. Beckham should have scored himself five minutes after half-time, but he lifted his shot high over the bar from ten yards after Scholes pulled the ball back from the byline.

De Goeij came to the rescue again in the 58th minute, when Solskjaer's first-time ball freed Scholes. De Goeij managed to block his shot and Beckham snatched at the rebound and pulled it wide.

Midway through the half, Scholes, whom Ferguson singled out for his profligacy, put a shot into the side-netting at full stretch and, 13 minutes from the end, De Goeij frustrated United one last time, turning Scholes's touch over the bar after Yorke's attempt at an overhead kick had cannoned off Le Saux.

Le Saux, by the way, behaved impeccably in the face of the all too predictable baiting from the crowd. Spare a thought, too, for Beckham, who was also taunted. He did not fling out his elbows or lose his temper, but who among the outraged chat-show and phone-in hosts and the new football intelligentsia will take up his cause?

MANCHESTER UNITED (3-4-3): P. Schmeichel; R. Burg, P. Neville (sub: D. Yorke, 72min), W. Brown — G. Neville, R. Keane, P. Scholes, D. Brown — D. Beckham, O. G. Solskjaer (sub: E. Sheenagh, 62), J. Blomqvist (sub: A. Cole, 82).

CHELSEA (4-4-2): E. de Goeij — A. Fener, M. Desailly, B. Lambourda, G. Le Saux — D. Patrick (sub: E. Newton, 46), J. Moore, R. D. Morris, B. Goldback — T. A. P. (sub: M. Fennell, 60), G. Zola (sub: A. Myers, 79). Referee: P. Durkin.

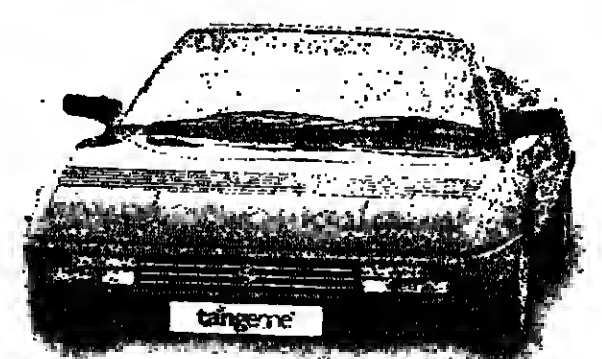
## Dennis Viollet dies at 65



Dennis Viollet, a member of the renowned Manchester United "Busby Babes" team of the Fifties, died at his home in the United States on Saturday after a long illness. He was 65.

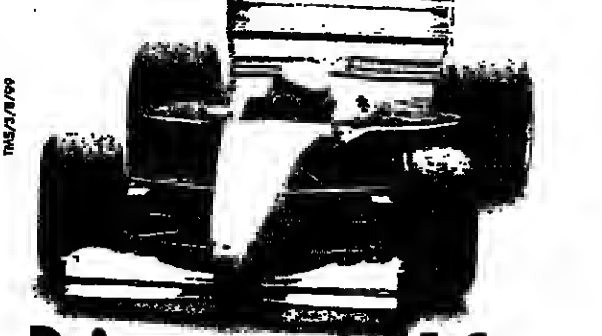
Viollet, a prolific goalscorer, came through the nursery system that produced Duncan Edwards and Bobby Charlton.

Report, page 1  
 Obituary, page 23



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## SAILING

## Prada crew fail to take advantage in dress rehearsal

BY EDWARD GORMAN  
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

IN AN exciting final day to the Road to America's Cup Regatta on Waitemata Harbour in Auckland yesterday, the Italian Prada crew came within a whisker of defeating Team New Zealand, led by Russell Coutts.

After eliminating both Dawn Riley's *America True* and Bertrand Pace's *Le Defi* in the opening round-robins, Prada had hoped to complete a nine-race final against the New Zealanders, who will defend the America's Cup proper in Auckland next year.

However, in the event light and unstable winds reduced the contest to just three races. In the first, Coutts established a 10sec lead at the first mark and was never headed. In the second, Prada led from the start and finished more than two minutes ahead.

After a very aggressive pre-start, in what turned out to be the deciding heat, the boats went up opposite sides of the first beat. At the first cross, Prada was a boat-length behind when the *genoa* halyard on *Team New Zealand* parted, sending the huge headsail tumbling on to the foredeck. Coutts' crew recovered brilliantly and quickly re-hoisted the sail, but Prada's advantage was short-lived as they suffered the very same gear failure minutes later and rounded the mark 20sec behind.

Coutts held on until 300 metres from the line, when the spinnaker on *Team New Zealand* exploded. Again, as the Italian boat crept up, the Kiwis were quick to repair the damage and they managed to finish just one metre ahead at the gun.

The end of the week's racing in Auckland came amid reports that the Spirit of Britain syndicate that had been hoping to send a British boat to the America's Cup for the first time in 12 years has now given up hope of finding the necessary sponsorship. After optimistic suggestions ten days ago that £1.5 million had been found to enable one yacht to be built, there now appear to be problems securing the finance and building has not started.

In the *Around Alone* Race, J. P. Moutigne, of France, in *Cruz Valley*, was on course to complete his third back-to-back leg win in Class 2 as he headed towards the finish at Punta del Este, Mike Garside, of Great Britain, in *Magellan Alpha*, was in second place, 115 miles behind.

## David Powell sees British athletes lay claim to indoor greatness

## Medals delivered right on time

LIKE Japanese trains — never late — Great Britain's gold medal express performed to the highest standards of reliability here in the seventh world indoor championships.

In the closing session yesterday, Ashia Hansen and Jamie Baulch achieved victories that elevated the British team to a place among the top four nations, after Colin Jackson's win on the opening day. The golden glow, which accompanied Britain's athletes through unprecedented success at the European championships in Budapest last summer, shines on.

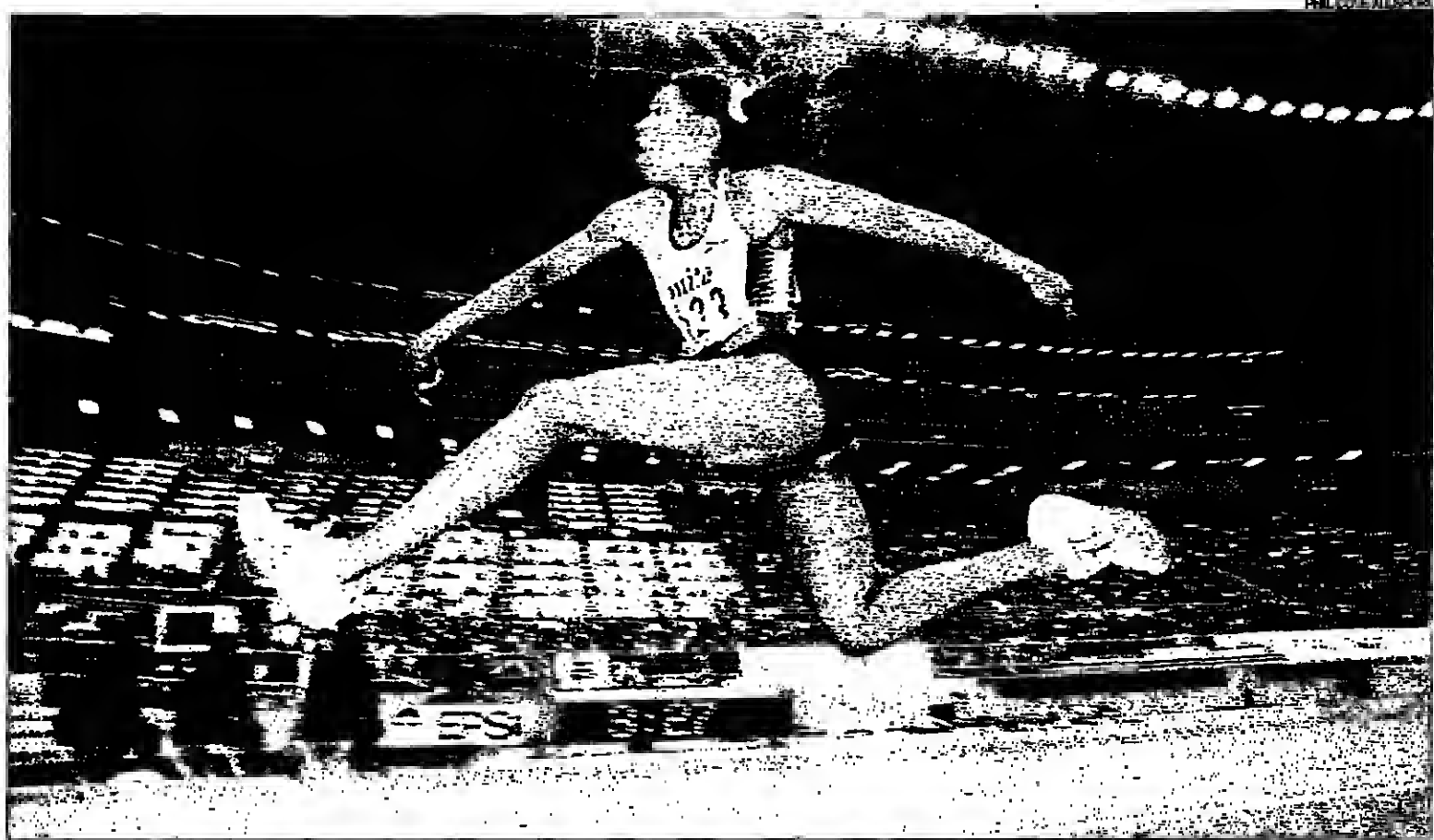
One more gold and Britain would have finished top. Four countries collected three each, but the United States, Romania and Germany occupied the leading places, scoring better than Britain on the minor medals. Nevertheless, it was the most that Britain's team of few stars could have hoped for. Only Jackson, of Britain's seven individual champions from Budapest, was here.

This was not only the best gold-medal haul by Britain in the history of these championships, but, in one go, Jackson, Baulch and Hansen equalled the total number of victories from the previous six. Jason Gardener was left admonishing himself for failing to win the gold that would have clinched Britain's place at the top of the world, but, by this morning, he should reflect that he was being harsh on himself.

Gardener was third in the 60 metres, breaking Linford Christie's European record with 6.46sec. He chased home the two cannonballs from Kansas City, Maurice Greene, the world record-holder, and Tim Harden.

"I fell out my blocks," Gardener complained. "I had a good chance of winning and I am disappointed." Greene clocked 6.42sec. Harden 6.43sec.

Hansen won the triple jump



Hansen, the world indoor record-holder, strides confidently down the runway on her way to achieving victory in the triple jump

with a towering performance. Baulch the 400 metres with a serve front-running. What a sequence for Wales: gold for Jackson on Friday, victory over France in the rugby on Saturday. Baulch's triumph on Sunday.

Ashia, queen of Asia. Only six months ago, Hansen won the Commonwealth Games title in Kuala Lumpur and now, on the same continent, she has won again. Hansen is the world indoor record-holder and she wasted no time in stamping her authority, firm evidence that the heel injury that kept her out of Budapest is no longer restricting her.

Hansen's first jump was her winning one — 15.02 metres. Only once before, when she set her world record of 15.16 metres to win the European title last winter, had Hansen cleared 15 metres indoors.

"I wanted to put pressure on the others early," she said. Iva Prandzheva, of Bulgaria, and Sarika Kasparkova, of the Czech Republic, responded to the challenge, both setting national records, but both fell marginally short.

Prandzheva was second with 14.94 metres. Kasparkova third with 14.87 metres. When Kasparkova failed to surpass

Hansen with her last effort, the Briton, jumping last, was assured of the gold. Instead of celebrating instantly, she maintained her composure to try for the world record on her final attempt. It was a wasted effort, although bringing a bottle of champagne out from England was not. This was her third successive championship victory — worthy of a toast.

Hansen believes that there is more in the bottle, as far as her performances go. "I was the world indoor champion, but I still wanted a bigger distance," Hansen said. "That is why I kept my concentration after Kasparkova had

jumped. I will never be happy with the distances. I shall always be craving for more."

Christie may have lost a European record, but he has gained a world champion. Baulch, coached by Christie, won the title that eluded him two years ago. Coming off the bend towards the end of the first lap, Baulch had to surge to lead at the bell.

"I got to the bell first, which is crucial indoors," Baulch said. "If you do not dominate by that point, your chance of success is limited." He took Milton Campbell, of the United States, the runner-up, by surprise. "Jamie seemed to

come out of nowhere," Campbell said.

Down the back straight, on the second lap, Baulch eased up, determined not to repeat his mistake of the last world indoor championships when, giving too much too soon, he finished second.

Christie's role has been critical. "My mental power is so much better, thanks to Linford," Baulch said. "I am not scared any more." Christie also coached the belief into Darren Campbell to become the European 100 metres champion last summer. Any more to come? As surely as Japanese trains run to time.

## Golden Gebrselassie upsets the apple cart

HAILE GEBRSELASSIE said, jokingly, last week — or perhaps he was half-serious beneath his beaming smile — that, if he won the 1,500 metres here, he might go for the 800 metres next time. Where will the boundaries finally be drawn for this extraordinary Ethiopian? He intends to run also a marathon with world record intent one day.

Unleashing finishing speed that put the specialists to shame, Gebrselassie added the 1,500 metres title yesterday to the 3,000 gold medal he had won on Friday. Yet this is an athlete who dominates the 10,000 metres, winning the past three world titles and the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Pity poor Laban Rotich, of Kenya,

who finished second. For once, Hicham El Guerrouj, who had dominated the 1,500 metres of late, was out of the way. Then, like a fox in a chicken pen, Gebrselassie turns up where he is not supposed to be. Trailing Rotich in the final bend, Gebrselassie sprinted by to win in 3min 33.77sec.

"One gold medal in a championship is ordinary," Gebrselassie said, grinning. "I wanted to be different." Only as different as Gabriela Szabo this time. Szabo, from Romania, completed the same double, winning the 3,000 metres in 8min 36.42sec yesterday, having taken the 1,500 metres title on Saturday.

Szabo may have some way to go to match Gebrselassie's achievements, but she is building an impressive

FROM DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN MAERASHI, JAPAN

portfolio. She is the 5,000 metres world champion outdoors. And broke Liz McColgan's world indoor record for the distance last month.

The two world records from the three-day programme came in the last two events. Adding to the closing drama was a last-heat win by Ivan Pedroso, from Cuba, in the long jump. Russia set new world figures of 30m 24.25sec for the women's 4 by 400 metres relay and the United States followed suit in the men's race with 3min 28.3sec.

Poland set a European record of 3min 30.1sec for second place, with

Great Britain third in a national record of 3min 32.0sec. Allyson Condon came off worse in a physical encounter with Piotr Haczek, from Poland, on the first leg, otherwise Jamie Baulch may have been contesting gold on the last.

Solomon Wariso, Britain's second-stage runner, was more than satisfied. "A new British record behind a world record and a European record — how can you complain in company like that," he said.

Pedroso was going for a fourth successive title, previously achieved only by Mikhail Shchennikov, the Russian 5,000 metres walker. He led for five rounds, but, in the sixth and last, Yago Lamela, from Spain, leapt

in front with 8.56 metres. Pedroso was having none of it. He responded with 8.62 metres.

First to hug him was Javier Sotomayor, his compatriot, who also won his fourth title, though not in succession. Sotomayor's high jump clearance of 2.36 metres beat Vyacheslav Voronin, from Russia, on countback.

In the 800 metres, reputation counted for nothing. Wilson Kipketer, the men's world record-holder and defending champion, was beaten by Johan Botha, from South Africa. In the women's race, Maria Mutola, failing in her bid for a fourth successive title, was passed on the final straight by Ludmila Formanova, of the Czech Republic.

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

## ENGLAND v FRANCE

IN THE LLOYDS TSB FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

5 PAIRS OF TICKETS TO BE WON



Today The Times, in association with Lloyds TSB, offers readers the chance to win one of five pairs of tickets to the England v France match at Twickenham on Saturday, March 20. The Lloyds TSB Five Nations Championship, the world's oldest international rugby tournament, was won last year by France and they will put up a ferocious fight to hang on to their title in this, the penultimate game of the championship for both teams.

## HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win one of five pairs of tickets to the England v France game at Twickenham, simply call our competition hotline below with the answer to this question:

**Who is the captain of England's rugby team?**

The winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. The lines close at midnight on Wednesday, March 10, 1999. No cash prize. Competition rules apply.

**COMPETITION HOTLINE 0640 678 891**

Lines close at midnight on Wednesday, March 10, 1999. Call cost 10p per minute.

CHANGING TIMES

## SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Sheffield Steelers and Nottingham Panthers will contest the BBC Challenge Cup final in two weeks. The Steelers beat Manchester Storm, the Sekonda Superleague champions, 3-1 in the second leg of their semi-final yesterday, winning 8-1 on aggregate. Nottingham Panthers drew at home with Cardiff Devils 2-2 yesterday, but qualified for the final on a 6-5 aggregate.

■ **SKIING:** Hermann Maier won the World Cup super-giant slalom race at Lillehammer yesterday. The Olympic and world champion clocked 1min 30.70sec as Austria took first, second and third places, with Stefan Eberharter second in 1min 31.17sec and Andreas Schiffrer third in 1min 31.29sec. Maier's win — his fourth this season — not only left him certain of winning the World Cup super-giant slalom title but also saw him overhaul Kjetil Andre Aamodt and Lasse Kjus, both of Norway, at the head of the overall standings.

■ **ICE SKATING:** Tatyana Malinina, of Uzbekistan, was the surprise winner of the women's title at the International Skating Union grand prix final. Maria Butyrskaya, the double European champion, of Russia, was second. Alexei Yagudin, of Russia, won the men's event, with Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsyannikov, his compatriots, winning in the ice dance event.

■ **BOWLS:** Colchester won the national inter-club championship for the first time in Exeter on Saturday. They lifted the trophy after beating Croydon 97-67 in the final.

## CRICKET: WEST INDIES' STANDARDS CONTINUE TO FALL IN FIRST TEST

## Lara receives dressing-down from rampant Australia

FROM PAT GIBSON IN PORT OF SPAIN

THEY were serving, with typically spicy Trinidadian sauce, "Lazarus lunch with Viagra dessert" at the Queen's Park Oval here yesterday, but it was going to take more than that to raise West Indies from the depths to which they have sunk.

If Australia had thought that England sometimes provided feeble opposition during the recent Ashes tour, it was best not to inquire what they felt about the efforts of the motley crew at Brian Lara's disposal at the critical stages of this first Test.

There have been a couple of occasions when West Indies have appeared capable of competing with the side that knocked them off their perch

with a batting collapse that surpassed even England's spectacular standards.

In 12 overs, they contrived to lose their last seven wickets for 18 runs to the pace of McGrath and the leg spin of Stuart MacGill. The last five wickets fell without a run being scored from the bat, the only four runs added coming from a ball by MacGill that went for four byes.

In the circumstances, it is hard not to feel some sympathy for the unfortunate Lara. He does make life difficult for himself by his apparent inability to conform to the standards required of a West Indies captain, which mani-

fests itself in all kinds of little ways.

Here, for instance, members of his own Queen's Park Club, obeying the strict dress code in the pavilion with their smart sports shirts and slacks, shook their heads sadly as their fallen idol padded off to the dining room in bare feet.

On the field, however, there does not seem to be much that he can do about the crisis. The bowling by their old lights is looking increasingly mundane and it is not going to improve until the venerable Walsh or Ambrose, or both, are put out to grass.

As for the batting, Joseph, a belligerent Antiguan, has

made a decent start to his Test career, but as long as Shivnarine Chanderpaul is injured and Carl Hooper unavailable, Lara is the only player of real class. When one legendary West Indian, who had better remain nameless, was asked if some of the batsmen in the present squad were over the hill, he said: "No, they never even got up the hill."

By the third day, the gulf between these two teams seemed to be insurmountable. It took McGrath only one over to wrap up West Indies' first innings, his sixth ball sending Mervyn Dillon off stump cartwheeling. He had made his highest Test score of 39 on Saturday and now he completed his twelfth five-wicket haul in Tests, his fourth against West Indies.

The once vibrant crowd was down to half its size of the first two days and, if the theory that the absentees were all in church was correct, their prayers were answered when showers twice held up proceedings.

Even they provided only temporary respite, however, for the sagging West Indies. Walsh did have Matthew Elliott, driving recklessly, caught at second slip for a duck and Dillon had Jason Langer caught behind for 24, but Michael Slater, reaching 50 off 120 balls, and Mark Waugh built remorselessly on Australia's advantage.

## LINKS

WEBSITE:  
www.uk.cricinfo.org  
TELEVISION:  
Sky Sports 2, 2pm (live)





A triumphant Irvine shares his moment of glory with the Ferrari mechanics after crossing the line for victory in the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne yesterday, his first in six years

# Irvine laps up luck and overdue taste of glory

FROM KEVIN EASON  
IN MELBOURNE

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER jumped impatiently into his hire car for the getaway while two Ferrari mechanics pushed a pile of tyres between the knot of people gathered long after the rest of Formula One had set off for the airport. At the centre of the group of hangers-on and leeches from the curio-entertainment tents, Eddie Irvine, dressed in a bright red Ferrari sweatshirt, slipped from a can of beer and slipped his arm around the neck blonde who wanted her picture taken with today's grand prix hero. When you have waited six years and 52 races for victory, you can afford to savour it for a while.

The Ulsterman, who has carved out a career as the best No 2 driver in Formula One, discovered yesterday how to become the No 1. Luck was, powerfully, on his side in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix. At the start of the day, you would have been hard-pressed to find anyone willing to bet on Irvine, such was the speed of the McLarens of Mika Hakkinen, in pole position, and David Coulthard, while Schumacher sat ominously in third place on the grid — except that is, for a red-haired, freckled youth, on holiday from his native Kerry, who had put Aus \$20 on his countryman.

He ignored Irvine's dismal practice days and a qualifying performance that put him only sixth on the grid, but perhaps he understood more about the alarming vagaries of Formula One than the rest of the 120,000 crowd. When he wakes up after spending his \$300 winnings in the row of

| GRAND PRIX 99<br>RESULTS FROM<br>MELBOURNE  |   |
|---|---|
| 1. E. Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:35.11.1<br>2. M. Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:35.11.1<br>3. D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1:35.11.1<br>4. J. Herbert (GB, Stewart) 1:35.11.1<br>5. J. Villeneuve (Can, Ferrari) 1:35.11.1<br>6. J. Zanardi (Ita, Sauber) 1:35.11.1<br>7. J. Montoya (Col, Williams) 1:35.11.1<br>8. J. Agnew (AUS, Minardi) 1:35.11.1<br>9. J. Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:35.11.1<br>10. J. P. Montoya (Col, Williams) 1:35.11.1<br>11. J. Agnew (AUS, Minardi) 1:35.11.1<br>12. J. Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:35.11.1<br>13. J. P. Montoya (Col, Williams) 1:35.11.1<br>14. J. Agnew (AUS, Minardi) 1:35.11.1<br>15. J. Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:35.11.1<br>16. J. P. Montoya (Col, Williams) 1:35.11.1<br>17. J. Agnew (AUS, Minardi) 1:35.11.1<br>18. J. Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:35.11.1<br>19. J. P. Montoya (Col, Williams) 1:35.11.1<br>20. J. Agnew (AUS, Minardi) 1:35.11.1 | 1. E. Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:35.11.1<br>2. M. Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:35.11.1<br>3. D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1:35.11.1<br>4. J. Herbert (GB, Stewart) 1:35.11.1<br>5. J. Villeneuve (Can, Ferrari) 1:35.11.1<br>6. J. Zanardi (Ita, Sauber) 1:35.11.1<br>7. J. Montoya (Col, Williams) 1:35.11.1<br>8. J. Agnew (AUS, Minardi) 1:35.11.1<br>9. J. Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:35.11.1<br>10. J. P. Montoya (Col, Williams) 1:35.11.1<br>11. J. Agnew (AUS, Minardi) 1:35.11.1<br>12. J. Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:35.11.1<br>13. J. P. Montoya (Col, Williams) 1:35.11.1<br>14. J. Agnew (AUS, Minardi) 1:35.11.1<br>15. J. Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:35.11.1<br>16. J. P. Montoya (Col, Williams) 1:35.11.1<br>17. J. Agnew (AUS, Minardi) 1:35.11.1<br>18. J. Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:35.11.1<br>19. J. P. Montoya (Col, Williams) 1:35.11.1<br>20. J. Agnew (AUS, Minardi) 1:35.11.1 |

bars that crowd Fitzroy Street, outside the Albert Park circuit, he will probably contemplate the extraordinary circumstances that helped Irvine on his way to victory.

The Stewart-Ford of Rubens Barrichello and Johnny Herbert, for example, which looked so competitive, both burst into flames as they waited for the start. Barrichello, fourth on the grid, took the

| HOW THE DRIVERS CAME TO GRIEF      |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Driver                             | Problem    |
| Johnny Herbert (GB, Stewart)       | overheated |
| Damon Hill (GB, Jordan)            | spin off   |
| Jean Alesi (Fr, Sauber)            | spin off   |
| David Coulthard (GB, McLaren)      | spin off   |
| Jacques Villeneuve (Can, BAR)      | spin off   |
| Alex Zanardi (Ita, Sauber)         | spin off   |
| Alain Prost (Fr, Renault)          | spin off   |
| Oliver Panis (Fr, Prost)           | spin off   |
| Marko Blundell (GB, Minardi)       | spin off   |
| Jarno Trulli (Ita, Prost)          | spin off   |
| Luca Badoer (Ita, Minardi)         | spin off   |
| Alexander Wurz (Austria, Benetton) | spin off   |
| Ricardo Zonta (Br, BAR)            | spin off   |

misstep and the burning Stewarts were merely precursors to a race of epic mishap. Damon Hill could not make it beyond the third turn in his Jordan, spinning off after being tapped from behind by a Prost-Peugeot, while Jean Alesi's Sauber did not even get off the grid.

Irvine, meanwhile, made an aggressive start, pulling up to third place through the gap left by Schumacher and Barrichello. Schumacher, characteristically, carved his way through the field, but how could even he catch Hakkinen? The world champion, in a dominant car and protected by the patrolling Coulthard in second place, looked invincible.

There was not long to find out, as the action came thick and fast after Jacques Villeneuve, in his new British American Racing car, crashed out spectacularly on lap No 13. He was unhurt, but his stationary car and debris on the track forced stewards to send out the safety car, bunching up the field and destroying the gap from Hakkinen to Irvine of 18.1sec and to Schumacher, then in seventh, of 37sec.

He had suffered a throttle linkage failure and did not more than trundle round until lap No 21, when he realised that his car was not going to cure itself. The Finn allowed himself a rueful smile as he followed his team-mate into the garage.

By now, Irvine was streaking clear of Heinz-Harald Frentzen's Jordan and facing only one serious threat — from Schumacher, his team-mate. He had closed to within 2sec of the leading group, knowing that there would be no battle with the race leader and expecting no less than victory — Irvine is under contract to give way to him and would have had to pull over as soon as he saw Schumacher in his wing mirrors.

This time, though, Schumacher was to suffer the ill luck that ended his title aspirations in the final grand prix of last year in Japan. On lap 26, his right rear tyre blew out, shattering bodywork and forcing him into the pits. He never recovered the lap lost while mechanics replaced tyres and a shattered nose cone.

# Family man moves up a gear

Kevin Eason believes there is still life in the vibrant Ulsterman yet

ALL along the dimly-lit street, only one sitting-room was alive with the sound of laughter and celebration in the early hours of Sunday morning. Edmund and Kathleen Irvine usually travel the world to watch their son compete for the most glamorous team in the most glamorous sport on earth. This time, they decided they would stay at home in their little house near Bangor, Northern Ireland.

Perhaps, like the whole of Formula One, they believed that they could afford to miss the Australian Grand Prix because nobody gave their son a chance of winning. But the telephone call that woke them in the early hours confirmed what they hoped would happen eventually: that Eddie Irvine was a winner.

Irvine is Formula One's paradox. He is the maverick who has conformed to the strictest contract in Formula One, forbidding him to outperform his team-mate; he is the man-about-town devoted to his family, particularly his parents and sister, Sonia, who works as his physiotherapist, and he is the driver who, until yester-

day, scorned his record of never having won a grand prix.

But he has reaped the reward of diligence beyond the call of a duty that has been both a curse and a blessing on his career. There can be no doubt that Irvine, 33, is a talented driver, yet he has bound himself into a deal at Ferrari that made it well-nigh impossible for him to consider himself to be a potential winner.

Irvine ploughed his way through the ranks, his brilliant style attracting admirers until the equally maverick Eddie Jordan brought him to Formula One six years ago. His impact was immediate and spectacular — in his first race, he was tapped by Ayrton Senna, only to retake the Brazilian. The three-times world champion was so incensed that he marched down the pitlane and punched Irvine on the nose.

But Irvine has that effect on much of Formula One. They like him or



Irvine savours the moment on the podium

bate him for his outspoken views, blunt language and apparent arrogance. For Irvine, the move to Ferrari, as No 2 to Michael Schumacher, has been a two-edged sword, for he has the machinery to compete, but his contract states he must give way to the German. Against that, he drives for the most famous team in the world, for which he is handsomely rewarded with about £3 million a year.

It has been the impossible choice: give up Ferrari and the fabulous salary as No 2 or move to another team with perhaps a worse chance of win-

ing. His job for three years has been to ride shotgun for Schumacher, blocking McLarens and clearing the path for his team-mate. Yet Schumacher has failed to win the title in spite of his efforts and Irvine has become increasingly frustrated, realising that he is good enough to win, just not allowed to, on the way to the end of his career.

Before the season started, the signs of restlessness were there as he contemplated another season as Schumacher's bridesmaid, no longer satisfied by the salary, the helicopter and yacht or the adaptation of Ferrari's devoted fans. The zero in the wins column of his record was increasingly irritating and a matter for correction. It was just a question of how against two superior McLarens and his team leader.

A month ago, he said: "I just have to make sure I am there when my time comes and maybe I could win a race or two for Ferrari. It is the one gap in my record and I don't want to finish my career in Formula One not having won a race. Last year, I was waiting for three drivers to fall off the circuit before I had a chance of winning."

Yesterday, it finally happened and all three did clear a path for a maiden victory. The question now is whether Irvine can grasp his victory and improve on it.

## SNOOKER

# Williams enters a new hall of fame

FROM PHIL YATES  
IN BANGKOK

MARK WILLIAMS joined the select band of players to have won three world-ranking events in a season when he defeated Alan McManus 9-7 in a gripping final of the Thailand Masters at the Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, last night.

Williams has blossomed into a formidable opponent of late. Successful at the Irish Open in December, when he beat McManus 9-4, and the Welsh Open a month later, the gangling 23-year-old, from Ebbw Vale, emulated Steve Davis, Stephen Hendry and John Higgins.

The £50,000 first prize carried Williams's total earnings this season to £273,325, while the manner in which he overcame high-quality opponents in his closing three matches served to underline the credentials of a realistic challenger for the world championship next month.

Williams, whose already healthy level of confidence was bolstered by convincing victories over Hendry, in the quarter-finals, and John Parrott, in the semi-finals, made his presence felt by establishing a 3-1 lead with breaks of 87, 64 and 106. McManus fashioned a last red-to-pink clearance to steal the fifth frame and had the opportunity to force a re-spotted black in the sixth, but, having cleared yellow to pink, he overcut a routine black off its spot.

Williams is recognised universally as the most dangerous single-ball potter in the game and this proved to be invaluable when, with the cue ball awkwardly tucked under the balk cushion, he sweetly stroked in the black from dis-

## RESULTS FROM BANGKOK

**SEMI-FINALS**  
M Williams (Wales) 6-1 J Parrott (Eng)  
A McManus (Scot) 6-1 D Morgan (Wales)

**FINAL**  
Williams 9-7 McManus 9-7  
(Frame scores: Williams first: 87-0, 114-2, 0-94, 64-10, 53-62, 77-63, 72-17, 68-24, 57-69, 70-43, 60-12, 12-65, 22-62, 53-73, 2-62, 78-46)

ance. A break of 72 enabled Williams to move 5-2 ahead and he also won a scrappy, error-strewn eighth frame to enter the concluding session in a position of considerable strength.

On the resumption, however, McManus won the first frame of the evening on the black with a clearance of 35 and stubbornly delayed the presentation of the trophy by grudgingly rallying from 8-3 to 8-7 addrift, without scoring heavily. By this time, Williams was understandably suffering from frayed nerves. Leading 4-0 in the sixth frame, McManus was on course to necessitate a decider, but he missed a red to a middle pocket and Williams eventually sank a spectacular green to launch his clearance to the pink.

"My mind was gone towards the end," Williams said. "The more frames Alan won, the more pressure I was under and my hands were shaking. I'm not going to start comparing myself with the likes of Davis and Hendry, but it's good company to keep."

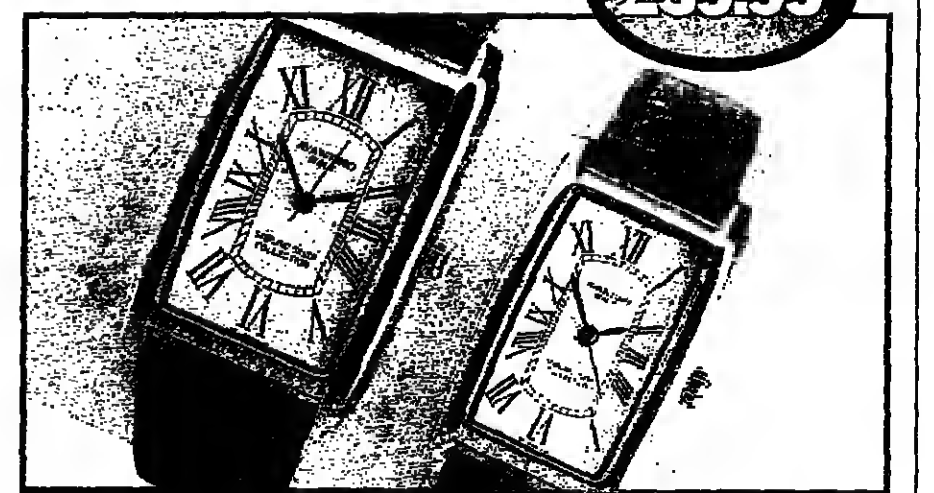
Despite mounting such a valiant rearguard action, it all added up to another near-miss for McManus, who has been the bridesmaid so often. He has now advanced to the semi-finals or further in 35 professional tournaments but has prevailed in only four of the 20 finals that he has contested.

Williams will be hoping to reproduce such sustained excellence at the China International, the seventh ranking event of nine this season, which gets underway at the JC Manderline Hotel, Shanghai, today.

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FA Cup: Vibrant Newcastle leave Gullit one step away from Wembley final

# Ketsbaia makes rueful Everton pay

MOMENTUM is the hardest thing to gain in football and the easiest to lose. With a mistimed pass or careless lunge, the efforts of a club can quickly be forsaken, a comeback forgotten, a recovery shelved. For Everton, the moment that their season became wholly trained to avoiding relegation arrived with the dreadful clarity of a deflected shot and the horror of a needless free kick.

By straining to reach a speculative effort from Terni Ketsbaia, Marco Materazzi unwittingly initiated Newcastle United's first goal, diverting the course of the ball with significant effect. By felling Alan Shearer on the fringes of the penalty area, Don Hutchison provoked a second. Two-one down and with Ruud Gullit's stifled revival escalating, Everton retreated to familiar, sapping territory.

While there was much more to come, Hutchison's intervention definitively altered the course of the game. Where, for gaping intervals at the beginning of each half, Everton had dictated its pace and shape, the impetus was now lost.

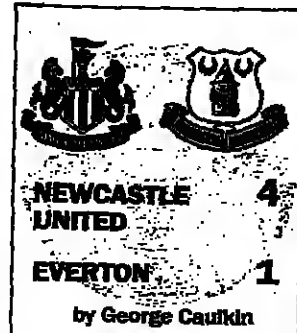


Stamford march on... 31  
Rangers reach last four... 31  
Results and tables... 30

Three Newcastle goals in the space of 20 minutes spoke of a dominance that they only later earned.

Suddenly, they are beginning to resemble a team. In Shay Given, Steve Howey, D. Sturges, Hamann and Shearer, Newcastle possess a backbone finally delivering the weight that it promises. The disharmony evident in the days around Christmas has been dispelled by positive results and now, where before they seemed flimsy and unimportant, their squad players are capable of injecting vigour.

The redoubtable Ketsbaia, the former Georgia international, whose future on Tyneside is far from certain, was their hero yesterday. If he remains in the team until the end of the season, he will still fall some way short of figuring in 75 per cent of Newcastle's matches — the minimum re-



quired for the renewal of his work permit — and yet he played with a fierce, indelible hunger.

"I would like him to stay, of course," Gullit, the Newcastle manager, said, "but there is good competition for places now and Ketsbaia, because of the new regime, is showing his best form." His first goal may have been blessed with a healthy slice of good fortune, but the same could not be said for either his second or Newcastle's fourth, which he created for his side's official new captain, Shearer.

Walter Smith, an empty, haunted figure afterwards, insisted that Newcastle were flattered by the scoreline and, in a sense, the Everton manager was right. For the first 15 minutes of both halves, Everton were worthy combatants, but they crumbled badly.

As the rain teemed down from a sky as leaden as the stretch of muck that barely passed muster as a pitch — two inspections eventually permitting the tie to proceed — Everton's players, showered and changed, trudged along the fringes of St James' Park to their coach. It was a poignant end to a vibrant afternoon, coming in stark comparison to the first little teaser which arrived with the team-sheets.

Since signing from Croatia, Zagreb last month, the introduction of Silvio Maric to English football has waited on the vagaries of a work permit, international clearance, and the postponement of a reserve team match, although, after a trip to the races, a point-halving excursion and the grand tour of Tyneside's finest fashion houses, his acclimatisation was already fairly complete.

All that remained was to exchange the black and white shirt that Maric had been sporting while awaiting the completion of his £3.65 million transfer for the real thing and,



Georgiadis, second left, of Newcastle United, is mobbed by team-mates, including Ketsbaia, right, after scoring his side's second goal yesterday

perhaps a touch surprisingly, that happened yesterday. The surface was too treacherous, Gullit had said, a lack of match fitness palpable, yet there he was jogging on to the field, taking his place on the left side of midfield.

Though Hamann had been the first to threaten with a speculative 20-yard punt that dipped markedly above the crossbar, Newcastle were sluggish in leaving the blocks. There were some pretty touches in the central portion of the

field, particularly from Maric, but, for long periods, the swirling, miserable conditions clearly favoured Everton's pragmatic tendencies.

The first goal by Ketsbaia altered that, draining Everton of control and self-confidence until the whistle for half-time cleared the distraction. From a flurry of quick passes involving Maric and Shearer, Ketsbaia emerged with the ball on the fringes of the penalty area. At that stage, a shot had appeared to be the least obvious

option, but the frame of Materazzi, hurled towards the danger, shaped glory from ignominy.

It stopped the game in its tracks. Half-time brought a renewal of efforts and, from Everton, an influential tactical change. Don Hutchison, back from suspension, was pushed forward alongside Cadamarteri and Jeffers and the complexion changed. Hutchison nicked the ball from Steve Howey, flicked it forward and, from a considerable distance,

David Unsworth left Shay Given sprawling. Within another five minutes, Newcastle were ahead once more.

From Hutchison's rudimentary foul, Thomas Myhre, the goalkeeper, could only parry Hamann's shot into the path of Materazzi. The Italian centre half could no little other than watch the ball spin from his leg as George Georgiadis, a substitute, turned it home.

In the 72nd minute, Georgiadis found Ketsbaia with a square pass along the perime-

ter of the area. He stepped outside Unsworth and shot beyond Myhre and, eight minutes from time, Shearer converted a move he had begun. A combination of one-touch passes culminated with a low, firm shot that struck right at the heart of Everton's season.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-2-3-1): S. Given — W. Barrow, S. Howey, N. Dinkler, D. Dorr — N. Solano, D. Hamann, R. Lee, S. Maric (sub: D. Georgiadis, 56min) — A. Shearer, T. Ketsbaia. EVERTON (4-2-3-1): T. Myhre — D. West, D. Watson, M. Materazzi, J. O'Kane — A. Grant, D. Hutchison, D. Unsworth, N. Wemyss, D. Cadamarteri (sub: J. Galt, 73), F. Jeffers (sub: I. Bakajovic, 73). Referee: G. Barber

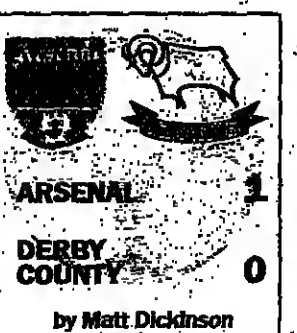
## Plain old Kanu quickly makes a name for himself

THE doubts over his health and confidence dissipate by the week and, as if to mark his rejuvenation, the goalscoring hero on Saturday has even consigned his bothersome Christian name to his troubled past. From now on, the Arsenal No 25 wishes to be known only as Kanu. The tongue-tripping Nwankwo has been left behind.

So, one hopes, have all his problems, with the long-legged Nigerian striding towards fulfilment at last — a hasty judgment perhaps, after just a handful of performances for Arsenal and only his first goal, but one that is founded on the knowledge that this is a proven winner, with a European Cup medal as evidence.

It does not take long to spot a footballer of talent, particularly amid the blood and thunder of a typically combative FA Cup tie, and Kanu caught the eye from the moment that he entered the fray against Derby County, dipping through the flying tackles with a grace and guile that should not be possible with a basketball player's physique.

The wonder is that more clubs were not willing to gamble on him when Internaz-



ionale decided that his heart problems had made him such a risk. Arsène Wenger, who had been mesmerised by him at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, took the plunge and how the Italians must have regretted letting him go when they were so ill-served against Manchester United on Wednesday by Djorkarner and Baggio.

They needed a player of courage and intelligence and those were the skills that Kanu brought to bear decisively for Arsenal when he was brought on after 65 minutes. The holders had been on top almost from the start, but they were beginning to wonder whether it was to be one of those days. Bergkamp was becoming

increasingly irritated by the limpet marking of Carsley. Anelka was coming to the boil under Stimac's close attention and Overmars was in the sort of selfish mood that made you wonder whether he should have been given a ball of his own.

Parlour, Arsenal's best performer in the absence of Petit and Vieira from central midfield, was providing the biggest threat to the Derby goal, but his shots were mostly from long range and narrowly wide. A game of ten bookings and one dismissal was heading towards a quarter-final replay at Pride Park. Then Kanu arrived and Arsenal's huffing and puffing found direction. Holes were picked in the Derby defence and finally, in the last minute, the Nigerian made the breakthrough. Parlour's corner fell at Keown's feet and the defender shot on the turn. The ball struck Kanu in the chest, but he swivelled faster than any off 5m man should be able to and struck a shot firmly into the Derby goal.

Arsenal were in the semi-finals and, after the furore surrounding his contribution in the previous round, when he

had combined with Overmars to score that controversial goal against Sheffield United, Kanu had made his proper impact on the competition and kept the holders on course for a second successive double.

"He is a quiet guy, but I think he has a strong spirit," Wenger said of Kanu. "He is improving physically and has a great attitude in training. What he does is always sur-

prising you. You can never guess what he is about to do. The way he solves problems on the pitch is always creative.

"At the moment, he lacks pace and rhythm, but you cannot have that when you have played only five times in two years. He covers less ground than he can, but it is getting better. I see him as a link player, but I still do not know how best to use him. Perhaps in a

Christmas tree (formation) with one striker (Anelka) and two behind (Kanu and Bergkamp). But he can also play as a target man because of his height."

It is a problem that Wenger can enjoy toying with as his team prepares for the critical months of the season in improving form. Arsenal will not be helped by the loss of Stephen Hughes for three



Dunn, the referee, steps in to cool tempers between Anelka, right, and Stimac during a full-blooded FA Cup quarter-final at Highbury, won by Kanu's late goal for Arsenal

weeks with a fractured arm, but Vieira will return against Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow night and Petit will be refreshed by his long rest when he comes back from his ankle injury in three weeks.

Arsenal deserved their late break, although there should be sympathy for Derby, whose use of man-markers and three strikers had caused the home side difficulties in the first half. County allowed themselves to be pressed too deep after the interval and Wenger threw more and more forwards on until his opponents could resist no more.

The frustration proved to be too much for Dean Sturridge, who was shown his second yellow card for protesting about Kanu's goal. There was nothing untoward about it, though, and Kanu went home a convert to the wonders of the Cup. Much will be expected of him now, but, at 22, there is plenty of time to deliver.

ARSENAL (4-2-3-1): D. Seaman — L. Dixon, M. Keown, T. Adams, N. Winstanley — F. Ljungberg (sub: K. Nwankwo, 45), M. Overmars (sub: K. Davies, 77) — D. Bergkamp, N. Anelka. DERBY COUNTY (4-2-3-1): R. Holt — J. Stimac — J. Laursen, S. Prior, I. Carsley, S. Schorr (sub: J. Hunt, 66) — S. Evans, D. Powell — D. Summerville, D. Dunn, P. Wetherby. Referee: S. Dunn

## Ginola's spectre haunts Tyneside feast

BY OLIVER HOIT  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY are beginning to scent some of the flamboyance of former years on Tyneside, but the FA Cup semi-final draw yesterday, a mist-mash of ifs and maybes, held out the prospect of two of the most celebrated remnants of the good times coming back to haunt them.

If Tottenham Hotspur beat Barnsley next Tuesday, in a quarter-final delayed by the wintry Yorkshire weather, then David Ginola and Les Ferdinand will be two of the men standing in the way of Ruud Gullit and his revitalised Newcastle United as they attempt to return to the Cup Final for the second year running.

Newcastle barged Everton aside 4-1 yesterday to join the holders, Arsenal, as the only teams through to the semi-finals. It is still possible that the sides who met in the final last season will contest it again this year.

This time, Newcastle

### SEMI-FINALS

Newcastle Utd v Tottenham Hotspur  
Man Utd or Chelsea v Arsenal  
12 Matches to be played on neutral venues on April 11

would provide Arsène Wenger's team with more of a test, but George Graham, the Tottenham manager, will be savouring already the prospect of leading his team out against his former charges from Highbury in what would be Spurs' second Wembley final this season.

"If we are going to win the competition," Alan Shearer, the Newcastle forward who scored the last of his team's goals yesterday, said, "we are going to have to beat the best teams somewhere along the way. It will be a top-drawer semi-final."

Newcastle's route to a re-run of the final last year still looks easier than that of Arsenal. Through to the semi-finals courtesy of Kanu's late winner against Derby County on Saturday, they will have to vanquish either Chelsea or Manchester United to reach Wembley.

Chelsea held United to a goalless draw at Old Trafford yesterday and will now be the favourites to advance to meet their London rivals for a semi-final that may be played at Wembley if two London teams are contesting it.

Chelsea victories in the replay on Wednesday night and over Arsenal would also raise the possibility of Gullit leading Newcastle out against the club that dismissed him so unceremoniously last year.

Despite the callow way that many of the top teams now treat the FA Cup, the fact remains that all three of the leading title contenders are still pressing for the Double.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said: "We would have preferred not to have to replay, but we are still only two kicks away from Wembley."

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## Increasing pressure threatens to derail Bolton

By Russell Kempson

PRESSURE. It grabs the throat, churns the stomach, turns legs to jelly. Those of a calm, composed nature become jittering wrecks; fear-some, combative hulks dissolve into simpering pussycats. The weak curl up and die; only the strong survive.

Colin Todd, the Bolton Wanderers manager, will confront the issue this morning. In a playing and managerial career spanning 35 years — from Chester-le-Street Boys to Derby County and England to Whitley Bay — he experienced the best and worst that pressure can produce. He came through.

For many of his players, though, it is an alien concept. Attempting to gain promotion from the Nationwide League first division into the FA Carling Premiership might not appear to be a burden, but, apparently, it is. Todd recognises the sweaty-palm syndrome and is worried.

Vinnie Jones, 35, has decided to leave football to concentrate on his acting career. The former Wales international, who starred in the successful British film *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, made his name at Wimbledon but also played for Leeds United, Sheffield United, Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers, the last of his clubs.

A high-scoring draw away to Swindon Town on Saturday, though salvaged from 2-0 and 3-1 deficits, was not up to scratch. "People might think that was a useful point for us, but I don't," he said. "A lot of the lads have not been in this position before, but they've got to handle it. It's hard to take anything positive from that display. We are not doing our jobs in the manner we should be. I said to the players: 'There's no pressure from me. It's up to you to do it.'"

After an unbeaten sequence of 15 league matches, Bolton have failed to win in their past four games and have slipped from second place to fifth, seven points off the automatic promotion place. A previously sound defence has conceded nine goals in three outings. The strain is showing.

It made for fascinating fare, after a relatively low-key first half in which Swindon went ahead through a header by Howe. Bolton bickered among themselves and Barry Knight, the referee, took four of the seven names he would collect in a spiky game. It was mildly entertaining, yet nothing compared to what followed.

May scampered clear to stretch Swindon's lead soon after the interval. Fish's overhead acrobatics reduced the gap and Walters made it 3-1 with an unstoppable 25-yard free kick. Completing a frantic spell of four goals in 17 minutes, Jensen and Gudjohnsen achieved parity.

In the remaining 13 minutes, Bolton's confidence returned, their passes zapped around the pitch and Swindon all but buckled. "It's not a strange game," Todd said. "It's the players that make it strange."

SWINDON TOWN (3-5-2): F. Talle — G. Davies, B. Borgeaux (subs: G. Hall, S. Jones), A. Rimes — L. Collins, S. Howe, S. Latch, M. Walters, T. Goodson — G. Hinch (sub: C. Gillett, 80), C. May.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): J. Jones — N. Cox, M. Fish, R. Elliot, M. Whitlow — M. Johnson, P. Fendley, C. Jensen, S. Salter — D. Holdsworth, R. Taylor (sub: E. Gudjohnsen, 80).

Referee: S. Knight.

## Nationwide League: Phillips on target for remorseless Sunderland Drama sold out in Stadium of Light

Sunderland ..... 1  
Norwich City ..... 0

By George Caulkin

YOU are strolling through the aisles of a cavernous supermarket: you have your shopping list and everything on it. You go to the checkout with all that you came for, you pay, you leave and yet you feel a nagging emptiness inside. The sensation does not lead itself to easy definition, but where was the intricacy, the spontaneity, the fun?

This is how it feels to visit the Stadium of Light, with its same grandiose edifice, the faultless goods and the

death of surprise. You turn up, Sunderland win without drama, you go home. The scale of the operation cannot fail to impress, but any novelty has long since worn out. You get what you pay for, nothing more. Not in other words, the kind of place to run game for trinkets.

Against Norwich City on Saturday, bogeys were buried and records set, yet countless pairs of eyes in another vast crowd will have swiftly glazed over. Another team came to harass and disrupt, another 90 minutes of guerrilla warfare.

As usual, Peter Reid's side navigated a tortuous path through it, heading for the first time under his stewardship and, in the process, recording their ninth successive home

League victory. "I'm pleased with that one," Reid said later, and one could sense that he meant it.

It felt momentous simply because of their awesome, remorseless efficiency. None of their recent sequence, which matches the feat of Bob Stokoe's Sunderland in 1975-76, have been better than 2-0. At the start of the season, they trounced Tranmere Rovers 5-0, beat Watford 4-1 and put seven past Oxford United, but that was before opposing teams realised that trenchant negativity might be their salvation.

From the refreshing equality of the opening moments, Norwich appeared to be tracing a different blue-

print. They pressed and harried, but when a Sunderland player got his foot on the ball, there was no collective, lurking retreat to the safety of their half. There was a breathy openness about their football.

It deflated pretty sharply when Chris Makin moved beyond the right side of defence and clipped the ball forward, where a back-heeled pass from Darren Williams — a stand-in for the injured Lee Clark — created a yard of space and Kevin Phillips produced a stunning finish. Seven minutes gone, game over and a joint retreat to physicality.

Almost surreptitiously, Sunderland contrived to prompt a useful save from Andy Marshall. Nicky

Summerbee struck the post and, six minutes from time, the shirt of Gavin McCann received a sharp tug. "A stone-cold penalty," Reid said.

What would Sunderland make of the FA Carling Premiership, Bruce Rioch, the Norwich manager, was asked? "Oh, I think Peter will need about £50 million, give or take a bit of small change," he replied. It was meant in jest, but one could not help wondering. A supermarket suddenly surrounded by luxury stores.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T. Sorenson — C. Miles, A. Molineux, P. Butler, M. Gray — N. Sumner, K. Bell (sub: G. McCann, 80), D. Williams, A. Johnston — N. Cox, K. Phillips.

NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): A. Marshall — C. Wilson, C. Fleming, M. Jackson, E. Fuglestad — D. Salvi, L. Marshall, P. Grant (sub: D. Russell, 80), K. G. Neil — I. Roberts, C. Bellamy (sub: C. Llewellyn, 74).

Referee: D. Pugh.

## Thetis on hand to turn jeers to cheers

Ipswich Town ..... 1  
Tranmere Rovers ..... 0

By Peter Robinson

THE boos tumbled down the stands at Portman Road like waves on a beach, driven by the weight of expectation. For a team set on promotion to the FA Carling Premiership, it was an indignity as unwelcome as it was unexpected.

Less than an hour later, the jeers had turned to cheers, the imprecations to elation, quite out of keeping with the fact that Ipswich Town had just beaten Tranmere Rovers, not Liverpool or Everton, Merseyside's "other" club. By a goal to nil.

The change was extreme, unnecessarily so, but it left no doubt about the passion of those supporting Ipswich Town in their pursuit of the Premiership, or about their belief that they are capable of returning to the level that they have graced in the past. Given that Sunderland are probably up, a shortlist of four is emerging for who will join them — Ipswich, Bradford City, Birmingham City and Bolton Wanderers — and this victory lifted the first of those into second place, at the top of the chasing pack.

Yet it also raised one or two doubts about Ipswich. For example, they were without Keiron Dyer on Saturday, the 20-year-old midfielder prospect who, if truth be told, is going to be playing in the Premiership next season, regardless of whether Ipswich are there or not. A broken leg sustained last Tuesday will keep him out of action for six weeks or so and, without him, Ipswich lacked a cutting edge.

It says something, too, that George Burley, the manager, is seeking a replacement for

Dyer on loan rather than trying to buy a new player, which would be expensive. Ipswich lack the funds of, for example, Bolton or Bradford.

Still, if they can keep grinding out the wins, they will be happy enough. Happy-go-lucky, even, because they were fortunate here, having been outplayed by Tranmere, especially in the first half.

Ipswich were in complete charge for perhaps a minute, the 78th, but it was enough. It was quite a minute, too, as dramatic as you could wish for. It began with a cross by Johnson that flew towards Stockwell at the far post. He, in turn, fell face-first into the turf, pushed by O'Brien, penalty. Venus tried to take it, only to be delayed by the referee while he booked O'Brien.

That done, Coyne, in the Tranmere goal, began a mesmerising dance on his line, distracting Venus so much that he struck his penalty far too close to the goalkeeper, who saved it well. Corner. In came the cross, a scramble, a header by Sowcroft and Thetis diverted the ball over the line. Goal.

Tranmere did their best to salvage something, but Wright was in awesome form and the fates were against them, even when Thetis climbed all over Kelly in the second minute of added time and escaped punishment, which would have entailed a penalty to Tranmere.

A penalty? To the away team? In injury time? This crowd, so moody and volatile, would have gone quite potty about that.

IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2): R. Wright — M. Thetis, A. Mowday, M. Venus — F. White, R. Potts (sub: M. Stockwell, 78), M. Holland, J. Magilton, J. Clapton — R. Taylor (sub: J. Sowcroft, 80), D. Johnson.

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-4-1-1): D. Coyne — G. Allen, J. McDermott, C. Hill (sub: D. Chalmers, 70), A. Thompson — L. O'Brien (sub: J. Kourmes, 82) — A. Parkinson, K. Hogg, A. Melton, L. Jones (sub: D. Kelly, 85) — S. Taylor.

Referee: P. Weston.



Asaba, the Gillingham striker, is watched closely by Gregan, the Preston North End captain, at Priestfield

## Taylor has Preston in his sights

Gillingham ..... 1  
Preston North End ..... 1

By Nick Szczepanik

WHEN a player scores five times in a single match, he is entitled to a sense of anticlimax if he manages just one goal in the next. Nevertheless, Robert Taylor, who monopolised the scoring during Gillingham's 5-0 win away to Burnley nine days ago, may come to regard his late equaliser on Saturday as being as valuable as his famous five put together.

Had he not escaped the Preston North End defence for the first time in the ninetieth minute to head in a cross by John Hodge, the visitors, in second place in the Nationwide League second division, would have widened the gap between themselves and Gillingham, in fourth, to ten

points. Even so, Gillingham's best chance of promotion to the second echelon of English football for the first time probably remains the play-offs, but at least they prevented Preston from disappearing over the horizon.

They deserved to do so, if only for their perseverance. Preston had taken an early lead, when Sean Gregan, the captain, deflected in a bouncing effort through a crowd of players by Mark Rankine, and they had looked the superior team.

Gillingham exerted plenty of rudimentary pressure, but most was absorbed by a defence in which Colin Murdoch, the central defender, excelled. Murdoch was ably supported by a collective work ethic that Gregan ascribed to team spirit built by David Moyes, the manager.

"A big part of football, if not the biggest part," Moyes said.

"The players have a belief in each other and what they are trying to do. When we get a chance, we do try to play."

In fact, Preston's belief in passing the ball swiftly and accurately on the ground was in marked contrast to the home side's route-one approach, which saw David Lucas mainly occupied in collecting a series of aimless high balls.

Such was the unremitting nature of the airborne assault that one or two decent crosses were bound to come in and Lucas was obliged to make three outstanding saves. The best came when he dived low to his left to a cross by Southall, although he was powerless to save Taylor's late effort.

"A terrific game played at a great pace," Tony Pullis, the Gillingham manager, said. "Their keeper was outstanding: the save from Asaba was top-drawer stuff. We're disappointed we didn't get three

points, but pleased at the end, because you'd settle for anything then."

Preston retain control of their own destiny, even though the gap between them and Walsall, in third place, has narrowed to two points. However, Walsall, like Bournemouth and Manchester City, must visit Deepdale, while Preston go to Fulham on the last day of the season hoping for a repeat of the events of 1970-71, when they pinched the divisional championship from the same opponents at the same venue.

"There's a lot of football to be played," Moyes said, "and a lot of points to be dropped."

GILLINGHAM (3-4-1-2): V. Baranov — B. Aubrey, A. Pennock, G. Bailey — N. Scullion (sub: J. Hodge, 78), P. Smith, M. Saunders (sub: K. Liddle, 84), M. Patterson — A. Henderson — C. Alcock, R. Taylor.

PRESTON NORTH END (4-4-2): D. Lucas — J. Derby, M. Jackson, C. Murdoch, D. Luchford — A. Gray, M. Rankine, S. Gregan, D. Evans — K. Nogan, S. Barham (sub: J. Macken, 78).

Referee: A. Wiley.

## Griffiths keeps promotion rivals in check

Leyton Orient ..... 3  
Rochdale ..... 0

By Bill Edgar

THE supporter told by the stadium announcer of his fatherhood might have been equally shocked by the rest of the message relayed during the first half of this match. "Stay until the end of the game," he was advised. Clearly, his wife appreciates the excitement of watching Leyton Orient during what could be the birth of a successful side.

After a week in which the image of intellectually-challenged footballers was reinforced by the Le Saux saga, an Orient team in chess-board shirts used its tactical nous to pull off a fifth consecutive victory in the Nationwide League third division. Displaying a fluidity more common among Dutch sides, the Londoners effectively operated without a right back, with four players taking turns to fill the gap when necessary.

At times, their formation was as hard to decipher as a Kasparov strategy, but Barry Hearn, the king of Orient, looked on proudly and opti-

mistically. Referring to his team in the match programme, the chairman said that a new 1,300-seat stand at Brisbane Road would not be the only thing to go up this May. Hopes of promotion increased on Saturday as Orient rose to third place.

Orient, like Rochdale, may be a small-time club in a big-city sprawl, but the Brazilian television-style yelling of "goal" on the public address system to mark every home score hints at a yearning for a bigger stage.

The below boomed across East London three times on Saturday and, on each occasion, Carl Griffiths had

been heavily involved for Orient. His pull back from the byline set up the headed opener for Kwame Ampadu in first-half stoppage time and the Orient forward added the other two goals himself, knocking in a rebound and then converting a brilliant curling cross by Tony Richards.

Tommy Taylor, the Orient manager, said: "There's a gap opening up at the top of the table and we've got to make sure we stay there."

His team is unlikely to be dislodged by Rochdale, who remain in mid-table after a game in which they threatened little, apart from a shot

against a post by Robbie Painter. It is familiar territory for the Lancastrians, who have been mere pawns in league football for a generation, stuck in the bottom division for 25 consecutive seasons — by far the longest period among clubs at that level. Orient may yet prove to be too clever for this company.

LEYTON ORIENT (3-5-2): S. Barrett — D. Smith, M. Joseph, R. Joseph — T. Richards (sub: D. Morrison, 78), M. Walschmann, M. Ling, K. Ampadu, M. Luckwood — C. Griffiths (sub: A. Robinson, 87), A. Searcy (sub: S. Watts, 82).

ROCHDALE (3-5-2): N. Edwards — M. Murrington, A. Foran, D. Brady — P. Carson, G. Storer, J. Lydiate, J. Peckin, A. Barlow (sub: M. Stuart, 82) — R. Painter (sub: G. Lomas, 70), A. Morris.

Referee: K. Hill.

## Amoruso sends battling Falkirk tumbling

Rangers ..... 2  
Falkirk ..... 1

By Phil Gordon

FORTUNE hardly favoured the brave at Ibrox. Instead, it ignored Falkirk's pleas for justice as Lorenzo Amoruso bludgeoned Rangers into the semi-finals of the Tennent's Scottish Cup yesterday.

Falkirk, of the first division, seemed destined to prolong their love affair with this competition by earning a quarter-final replay when the Scottish Premier League leaders with a 75th-minute winner. There seemed to be little danger when the tall Italian defender ambled forward from the centre circle, but Falkirk backed off and Amoruso thrashed a 35-yard shot that dipped before taking a vicious bounce to beat Paul Mathers, the goalkeeper.

Falkirk, who reached the final of this competition in 1997 and were semi-final-

ists last season, had cancelled out an early second-half goal by Neil McCann with a splendid strike from David Moss. They also struck the post and forced Stefan Klos, the Rangers goalkeeper, to excel.

"Falkirk's commitment was better than ours," Dick Advocaat, the Rangers coach, said. "Only Amoruso so played well — I never saw the ten other players in my team."

Alex Totten, the Falkirk manager, said: "We deserved a replay because our performance was exceptional, but the two goals we lost were dreadful."

Falkirk's hunger was epitomised by Kevin McAlister, who won every tackle. Elsewhere, Totten's team were well organised, with Martyn Corrigan and Jamie McQuillken, in particular, ensuring that McCann and Kanchelskis were not allowed to provide Rangers with the threat on the flanks that has characterised their recent routs.

McCann gave Rangers the lead in the 32nd minute. How the winger outjumped the central defence to connect with a corner by Giovanni van Bronckhorst was a mystery, but the ball flew past Mathers. Scott Crabbe responded for Falkirk with a shot that struck the inside of the post in the 57th minute, before Moss equalised after Klos had only parried a shot by James.

Falkirk's hopes of grabbing a second equaliser were thwarted when Klos denied James late on.

RANGERS (3-5-2): S. Klos — S. Foran, L. Amoruso, A. Verner (sub: G. Amadio, 80), M. Kanchelskis, B. Ferguson, G. van Bronckhorst, J. Albert, N. McCann (sub: S. Wilson, 83) — S. Gusswiler (sub: J. Johnson, 80), R. Wallace.

FALKIRK (3-5-2): P. Mathers — D. Snider, I. den Bieman, K. James — M. Corrigan, O. Morris, S. Crabbe (sub: G. Hutchinson, 83), S. McManis, J. McCullum — M. Math, K. McAlister.

Referee: J. Riddoch.

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# Five Nations Championship: Midfield shows fierce resolve as Woodward goes back to basics



Rodder withstands the grip of Wallace to stretch out in the closing stages for the try that put the seal on England's impressive victory in Dublin. Photograph: Marc Aspland

## Wilkinson brandishes sword to proclaim new England iron age

FROM DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT  
IN DUBLIN

WHEN England regroup next week to prepare for their meeting with humbled France, Clive Woodward will remind his players of the moment at Lansdowne Road on Saturday when the game — and possibly the championship — might have swung away from them. That is what coaches do, although, in this instance, England have taken the lesson to heart already.

Conor O'Shea was within inches of a try that, with the conversion, would have brought Ireland to within a point at a time when their tide was running furiously high. The full back failed to score because of the utter commitment and organisation in defence that ran like an iron streak through England, even while other parts of their game still need polishing.

A fortnight earlier, against Scotland, the defence in midfield was confused; over the past week, Phil Larder, the former rugby league coach, who now works regularly with England and Leicester — the meanest defenders in the Allied Dumbie Premiership — has worked daily with the midfield trio of Grayson, Wilkinson and Guscott and the results were plain to see for the 49,000 who watched Ireland's vaulting hopes slip beneath the waves.

If you enjoy seminal seconds in sport, Wilkinson's tackle on



Keith Wood in full stride was one such, telling Ireland's icon that this was not to be his day. You do not often hear coaches lauding opponents to the skies, but Warren Gatland, of Ireland, was in no doubt. "England have found a player for the future," he said of Wilkinson. "For a 19-year-old, his composure, his goalkeeping, show he has a huge future."

The teenager scored 14 points with his boot, came within reaching distance of the tryline in the closing stages as England hammered down the coffin lid and provided the superb, floating pass in the first half from which Matt Perry scored. "The ball from Jonny just sat up in the wind and I was able to take O'Shea on a different line," Perry said.

Wilkinson himself was far more satisfied with the self-assurance that he had shown on his first visit to Dublin in the Five Nations Championship, sponsored by Lloyd's TSB, but England as a whole had rea-

sons to be cheerful. They need not worry if their workman-like virtues lost something in translation after the nip-and-tuck of events in Paris: it is they who stand at the head of the championship table, they alone who can gather a triple crown or a grand slam.

That they found ways of conceding 22 penalties, the bulk of them for offside and playing the ball on the ground, is a source for concern, but their overall discipline was much improved and they can even disregard the yellow card shown to Martin Johnson — for a shoulder charge into an opponent's back — which Faddy O'Brien, the referee, described as "innocuous". Consideration was given to citing

for a stamp on Richard Cockerill's head, which earned the briefest of debut caps for Neil McCarthy, of Gloucester, but no further action will be taken.

"That was the best performance since I took over as coach," Woodward said in the first flush of enthusiasm. The important factor for Woodward was that it came away from home, against an Ireland side full of confidence and well-blessed with talent; it also explored the character within the side, the ability to shrug off a disappointing display and concentrate on the next task, in which Lawrence Dallaglio led by example.

It says something of the tactics that England have explored in the past that the mid-

| Team     | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| England  | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 28 | 4   |
| Ireland  | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 34 | 22 | 2   |
| France   | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 43 | 43 | 2   |
| Scotland | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 23 | 60 | 2   |
| Wales    | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 86 | 2   |

Feb 6: Ireland 9 France 30, Scotland 23 Wales 20, Feb 20: England 24 Scotland 21, Wales 23 Ireland 29, Mar 6: Ireland 15 England 27, France 33 Wales 34.

Mar 20: England v France, Twickenham; Scotland v Ireland, Edinburgh; Apr 10: Wales v England, Wembley.

Mar 20: England v France, Twickenham; Scotland v Ireland, Edinburgh; Apr 10: Wales v England, Wembley.

die five were far more definitive in their actions, with Dallaglio sticking to the role of No 8, rather than moving back and forth between the blind-side flank and No 8.

"It does give you control of the decision-making process," Dallaglio said. Richard Hill, that exemplary footballer, has the ability to play off either flank, anyway, and Kyran Bracken, in what amounts to his natal town, knew precisely where he was.

The scrum half kept Ireland's back row honest, as they say in New Zealand, throughout the game and left Grayson to exert the tactical control. There were moments of confusion for England, ball in hand, during the first half, but down the wind Grayson played well and his chasers forced O'Shea to surrender the lineout advantage. Here again, England were prepared to attack the Ireland throw, stealing a couple of balls and spoiling two more on a day

when Ireland had the greater share of set-piece possession.

That they could do little with it says much for England's aggressive defence. "They went back to a more basic game," Gatland said. "They know how to do it and they are very good at it."

For all Woodward's ambitions for his team, it is no bad thing to build on a game that comes naturally to the English. They imposed themselves to such an extent that Ireland's space was closed down and Victor Costello was wrapped up as he charged from No 8.

True, England should have made far more of their dominance into the cold wind (less of a factor than it might have been) during the first quarter. Even allowing for fashion, there are other things to do with penalties close to the opposing line other than kick them to the corner for a line-out. Other, better sides will punish them for their failure to convert territory into points and it came as a relief to see the swift hands of the backs capitalise on Rodder's forceful run into midfield before Perry scored the first try.

Grayson's dropped goal came from a patient build-up before Humphreys briefly restored Ireland's lead with his fourth penalty goal.

Yet the nervous Wilkinson, who missed only once during the afternoon, extricated maximum revenge when Ireland offended in the tackle and, in injury time, Rodder barged his way over.

## Muscle and flair provide day of drama

WHAT a contrast the two Five Nations Championship matches offered on Saturday. A glorious victory for Wales in Paris, against a France side who must be starting to wonder when their form is going to arrive. Then a dour, hard-fought slog in Dublin, where England emerged as victors against a gallant, but, in the end, out-muscled Irish side.

England were always going to win. Right from the outset, they strangled the Irish into submission. The forwards took control up front and in the end they did not let any of the much talked-about Irish passion flow. They took the Irish forwards on and, in doing so, struck at the heart of their strength and tore it down. Ireland hardly looked like scoring all afternoon, apart from the continuous flow of penalties from the whistle of Faddy O'Brien.

There was one worrying factor in this performance for England. They had so much possession and field position, yet still could not put Ireland away until the last five minutes. Having said that, one got the impression that, to their credit, Ireland were simply hanging on.

There were many heroes for England, most wearing numbers in single figures. The tight five, Johnson and Rodder, in particular, spearheaded the opposition. The front row not only controlled the scrum but also did their fair share of tackling and carrying of the ball when required.

The back row played well, with Dallaglio probably the pick, mainly because this was his type of game rather than the more open affair favoured by Hill and Back. It was good to see him carrying the ball, where he is at his best.

Kyran Bracken at scrum half was, for me, the dominant figure. He made correct decisions continually and showed great strength and determination when he decided to attack himself. His service to the backs was swift and sure, interrupted only by big forwards annoyingly getting in between him and Grayson.

The decision-making of the two English half backs was so much healthier than it had been against Scotland. It was not burning-the-grass running rugby, but it was not the day to be throwing the ball around. They made the right decisions to win, even if it wasn't pleasing to the eye.

The best player in the English back line was Jonny Wilkinson. He was born with that, or so it seems, because he plays like he has been in the team forever. I know, now,

MICHAEL LYNAGH



why he is not at fly half. If he tackles like that, he would not be allowed into the No 10 club. He continually puts bigger and supposedly harder men not only down, but backwards. One memorable tackle on a runaway Keith Wood would have made any world-class flanker happy.

He created the first England try with a wonderful pass and the responsibility of goalkeeping appears to be no chore. He is going to be in the white shirt for a long time.

I felt the performance of Matt Perry at full back was sound, but he retains the tendency to make some strange decisions when he has time to think. He needs to take the safety approach first of putting the ball up and chasing. After doing this a few times, the opportunity to counter with the ball will come.

The encounter in Paris was the type of game that makes you get up and out of your seat and move closer to the television. I was enthralled with this contest and by the end I was all of six inches away from the screen.

The Quinell brothers, along with Colin Charvis, tore into the French. Neil Jenkins found himself in wide-open space that he normally lets other people explore and Shane Howarth provided some real slice from the back.

It was a great Wales performance, very similar to the massive effort they produced against South Africa last year, only this time they had the belief to go on and finish the job.

It has been so long since they won in France that they didn't seem to know who to hug, where to run or what to do when the final whistle was blown at the end. If they keep playing like this, they will have many more opportunities to bask their post-match celebrations.

## Wood chopped down to size as Irish sing blues

T here was a deep, resonant longing within Irish voices that accompanied the half-time ballad in Dublin. Their green-clad warriors trailed England by a barely perceptible margin. They had hardly a whiff of the ball, but their nostrils still flared with the scent of victory. Yet the heart of the song was to tell of Ireland's profound disappointment at the final rites. "Our love is on the wing. We had dreams, and songs to sing. It's so lonely in the fields of Acheron."

Lansdowne Road was a lonely place for the bulk of the 49,000 present, many of whom had paid handsomely to witness the new dawn. Ireland had all but roasted French song-froid; had then over-run Wales to herald the prospect of a first triple crown in 14 years. Here before them stood a vulnerable England team that had made three significant changes to counter the fire of Ireland.

Yet the flame that burnt like a beacon of hope, proved to be no more than a flickering illusion. Images of the wreckage lay scattered all over the field. It showed in the dejection of Victor Costello, the abrasive No 8, whose anonymous presence was highlighted only when he gave way to Eric Miller in the second half. It showed in the impotence of David Humphreys, whose intention to bombard the England defence was hijacked for his lack of the ball in hand.

Above all, it was evident in the display of Keith Wood, the talismanic hooker. If Wood is Ireland's totem, England hacked him down like a tribe of cut-throats. Rarely could he break the first tackle, his presence fading eventually against the massed English ranks.

So complete was his eclipse that he was stopped clean in his tracks by Jonny Wilkinson. Then followed the final act of humiliation: a charging Wood caught, enveloped and

dispatched into retreat by a rampant English pack.

His predicament was exacerbated by his regular failure to hit his men at the lineout. As England discovered to their cost against Scotland, poor ball from the lineout smothered their advantage. Ireland were thus constricted — much to the chagrin of their supporters, who, on their way to the ground, had breezed past a billboard proclaiming free sex in exchange for a ticket.

It was the first of many bad decisions from Celts who would endure a wretched afternoon. To witness their dejection was to understand how deep-rooted was their conviction as they sang and danced their

way out of the city centre three hours earlier. To be sure, this was no sentimental journey. The substance to their perceived revival was such that the best seats were changing hands at record prices. In the end, the old adage rang true: an expectant Ireland never bites like the underdog. In stark contrast, evidence of England's spirit positively haunted the old stadium.

Richard Cockerill, England's feudal hooker, proved the fulcrum for the front five in an enclave of the scrum where little is seen and even less said. It was somehow symptomatic of his influence that Ireland came closest to scoring in the minute that Cockerill was sidelined for treatment to a head wound.

These scars of battle prompted Cockerill to jig the length of the touchline after the decisive late try by Tim Rodder. Cockerill plainly likes the sound of his own chimes, but Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, was the loudest voice within England's dominance.

Dallaglio, who bore the brunt of criticism for England's tame showing against Scotland, stood like a lighthouse in the storm around him. He was a colossus, his leadership by deed amplifying just how Wood had fallen short for Ireland.

"I have come to learn that I take the flak when the team plays badly," he said after being voted man of the match. He savoured his switch from the flank to the back of the scrum at No 8. "In that position, you have control of the decision-making process," he said. "I felt that variety was there throughout the game, which we lacked against Scotland."

An emphatic defeat rammed



Wood, of Ireland, fumbles the ball after a tackle by Guscott



GUINNESS

6000 THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO...WAIT.



# Small screen fails to do justice to comedy of errors

I am the first person to see a joke against myself, but this goes too far... the archetypal school teacher's words suit Formula One motor racing to a tee. Yes, Formula One is back and funnier than ever. The shame of it is that no one involved in the sport can see how funny it is.

Any sport, surely any other sport in the calendar that began with the world champions accidentally pulling the roof down on top of their own heads, would see that there was something faintly amusing about the business. But, no, not Formula One.

And surely television, if covering any sport other than Formula One, found itself with such hilarious footage — a car

screeching out of the garage with an air hose still attached to it, pulling down the overhead gantry, which laid out the team boss, Ron Dennis, and two or three members of the pit crew — would have replayed it as often as a sequence of the elephant running a mock in the *Blue Peter* studio.

But no, no point. We were given a brief glimpse of this gorgeous Keystone Cop sequence and then we had a learned comment from Martin Brundle: "McLaren are very professional." (I somehow didn't quite cover the situation. So he chanted on about "some slight clutch gremlin" while the roof was caving in about McLaren heads.

Oh, it was delicious stuff. And then, after the parade lap, we had a splendid bit of synchronised spontaneous combustion as two cars gently burst into clouds of smoke and had to be dragged off. And, as if that was not rich enough, Michael Schumacher stalled his car again.

Which is exactly what he did in the last race of last season, when he might have won the world championship, but lost his chance by stalling at the lights. Schumacher seems to have a problem with this. No one — or to be accurate, no one inside the sport of Formula One — has ever so much as suggested that the problem might be with Schumacher. No one dares. For the same



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

reason, no insider dares to think that Formula One could possibly be funny. And the television coverage traditionally defers to the sport's apocalyptic view of its own importance.

There were people popping in and out of garage doors as if this were an automotive version of a Feydeau farce, but no one even noticed that it was amusing.

Instead, there seemed to be

a small competition going on in the commentary box, with Brundle daringly and rashly going wheel-to-wheel with Murray Walker. Frequently, the two of them were shouting contradictory things at the top of their voices at the same time: adding to, rather than sorting out the quite extraordinary confusion of the race.

In fact, the race had lost all its logic long before the start

and the tangled and tortuous narrative of the race was made still more confusing by the fast inter-cutting from one car to the next: the policy was to fill the screen with colour and noise and damn the logic of the race.

This aspect of the coverage was dreadful. Meanwhile, one significant incident after another was missed: Schumacher's various charges from the back of the field, Barichello's overtaking manoeuvre — they cut away from him just a few seconds before it happened.

The theme of farce continued: Zonta failing to give way to the race leader because he apparently didn't know the rules; Schumacher cruising in

for a pit stop, finding his pit crew not expecting him and so driving on; Villeneuve with bits of stuff falling off his car.

And, of course, the McLarens. The McLarens were expected to carry all before them, but they flopped out, one after the other. Walker ended the race in absolute ecstasies, but then he ends every race in absolute ecstasies. "And if the rest are as good as this, there is lots of excitement and drama to come."

Precisely. Not great sport, not really sport at all, but Formula One gives us plenty of excitement and drama, not excepting that dramatic form known as farce.

Formula One has become a different kind of sporting enter-

tainment. Television is always inventing new forms — such as, for instance, the docu-soap — and if Formula One is not sport in any exacting sense of the term, it is a wonderful and intermittently hilarious form of television.

Yet television insists on po-faced seriousness, as if it was covering a Papal election — the same reverent gasp whenever a puff of smoke is to be seen. That bit when the car pulled the roof down was the funniest bit of sporting television this year. To show it only once when we get a replay every time a player punches the air was little short of criminal. Alas, we shall have to wait five weeks for the next exciting episode of sport's own docu-soap.

'It's a fact he'll fall in three. The world ain't run by big people; it's run by smart guys'

## Holyfield trains in the art of pain

If Lennox Lewis considers himself to be the toughest of Evander Holyfield's opponents, Holyfield sees Lewis as his easiest. In an interview with *The Sunday Times* last November, Holyfield graded his opponents in elementary mathematics terms: Riddick Bowe, the most difficult, was algebra. Lewis is not even addition. He is as simple as counting up to three, for the round in which the bout for the undisputed world heavyweight championship will end here in New York on Saturday, and up to ten for the knockout.

The World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation champion is as certain as his belief in God that the bout will not last beyond the third. After a 45-minute talk in his gym in Houston, Texas, known as the House of Pain, he left me despondent about the prospects of the world heavyweight title coming back to Great Britain.

Admittedly, it was only talk, but the conviction with which he held his view made you imagine, in spite of your better judgement, that the bout was more between man and boy. Even Holyfield's polite and relaxed manner carried a hint of menace. He said: "Talk for as long as you like, I've got all the time in the world. Because I want you to tell the people in England that you spoke to the Real Deal and he told you the real deal."

He denied that his vehemence was the result of Lewis calling him a hypocrite because he preached the word of God and fathered children out of wedlock, even after his latest marriage. Clearly, though, Lewis had got under Holyfield's skin. In fact, he expounded on his opponent, he became more and more animated.

"It's not a forecast. It's a fact he'll

### SRIKUMAR SEN



fall in three. I'm not the type of person who says something he can't do," Holyfield said. "All my life I've said don't say things that will embarrass you, but as I grow old [he is 36], I realise what I can do and what I cannot do."

"When people say: 'Why are you stepping out?' — I say: 'Is it wrong for a man to grow?' I'm not doing it for hype, or publicity, or to get attention. I don't need these things. What Lewis said did not affect me. I've been eating good before Lennox. They've talked about me all my life, when I was poor and now when I'm wealthy."

Holyfield was more annoyed with Lewis's claim that, for the past two years, he had been avoiding the World Boxing Council champion, Lewis, he said, must have been aware that the contest had not been made because promoters and managers got in the way, not because Holyfield was



Muscle man: Holyfield works out in the House of Pain, his objective to lift the unified world heavyweight crown by fulfilling his promise to knock out Lewis

ducking him. "You should not say things that can come back on you one day," Holyfield said. "Lennox overpowered himself, telling people Americans were avoiding him. He embarrassed the whole world, saying I ducked him."

"Now the time has come, all he can say is: 'I'm bigger than him.' Bring something more to the table, like being more skilful. The world ain't run by big people; it's run by smart guys. The word of God says we all have to go through our trials to become the person we are. He is coming to his trial and will be able to say he's a man? Unfortunately, no."

"I'm not going to make it easy for him. I'm going to put it on him. He needs to be able to chalk up his defeat and tell his family it was good not to duck anybody."

It was typical of the contrary nature of boxing, he said, that while in the Land of Love, the resort in

the Pocono Mountains where Lewis trains, Lewis suffered the pain of drudgery: Holyfield's House of Pain turned out to be a place of love, of God and boxing. It was a joy for Holyfield to come to work because it gave him the chance to pray.

Unlike most boxers, who run in the early hours and train in the evening, Holyfield works in reverse order, starting at 5.30am. The move is a clever one because it keeps the watchers down to a manageable number. "He doesn't like to turn people away," an admirer said.

After 30 minutes of muscle-stretching, followed by prayers, the hall reverberated to the sounds of gospel music as Holyfield went to work. "If you can incorporate prayer in everything that you do, you benefit more. So I get my confi-

dence from God, not from my fists," he said. "I need my confidence to override what this guy's going to do to me, so I pray and pray. I place my faith in God. We know that our thinking ability allows our body to move and if we didn't have the spirit to think, then we wouldn't be able to do anything. My body just does what my mind tells it to and my mind is moved by the spirit of God."

Holyfield spurs every other day and this was reserved only for workout. His regime for arm and leg strengthening has been scientifically worked out by Tim Hallmark, a sports medicine expert. Holyfield was strapped, body arms and ankles to a contraption that appeared to have come from the London Dungeon called a Centreforce and he was made to go through the routine of boxing against the resisting springs.

But worse was to come. First, he

had to kick a medicine ball back into the hands of Hallmark, standing 15 feet away. After three rounds of "football", it was time to play catch. The medicine ball was thrown back and forth between him and Hallmark and, at the same time, he had to move forward throwing combinations. The exercise became more and more strenuous as the elastic bands and springs were stretched to the maximum and, still, Holyfield had to work against them.

The champion explained afterwards that the aim was to strengthen his legs and, when released from the constraints of that contraption, to find speed of action.

"I believe in being absolutely fit," he said, "because otherwise I would not be able to follow the instructions of my corner in a fight." He added that he considered his whole career as preparation for the contest, which was the most im-

portant of his life as it would enable him to retire as undisputed champion.

"I'm one of those people who has watched Lennox way before this fight was made. I watch all the people I might have to fight one day," Holyfield said. "Lennox was one of the guys I watched because he was in the Olympics like me and he was a talented kid and I knew he would surface. So, I watched him a lot. I've seen all his fights and I know exactly what to expect."

Holyfield said that he owed it to boxing to leave the division a unified title when he retired. "I want to put things in order," he said. "If you clean up the kitchen and you don't do the sink, you ain't doing your job and your mamma is going to give you a good whipping. I don't want a whipping from my mamma. So I'm going to give it to Lennox. When the job is over, the Lord will say: 'Well done.'"

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

## SPORTS LETTERS

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

### Missing the point

From Mr Geoff Walters  
Sir, I read with interest the letter from Mr. Rob Edgerton (March 1) extolling the virtues of Messrs Farrell, Connolly, Radlinski, Robinson and Newlove. While agreeing they are quality rugby league players, I fear that he, along with many rugby union followers, misses the point.

They are good players because they have grown up playing a code that encourages running, handling and defensive skills that have been undervalued (until recently) in rugby union. From 1895, when the game began to evolve, administrators and lawmakers have sought to make rugby league attractive. To this end, the reduction from 15 players to 13, the abolition of the lineout and the addition of the play-the-ball rule have contributed.

In conclusion, the players mentioned are playing the "right" code. It is Mr Edgerton and his friends who should change codes in a sport that rewards running, handling, tackling and kicking skills. Yours faithfully, GEOFF WALTERS, 7 Fox Court, Norton Cross, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 6SJ.

From Mr Kim Pereira  
Sir, John Hopkins's account of the Andersen Consulting Matchplay Tournament was a study in British snobbery. His suggestion that we in America do not understand matchplay is ludicrous. Would he be surprised to learn that matchplay is standard fare in thousands of local tournaments all over the country every year?

So some people don't understand all the rules. So what? Even the players don't understand all the rules of golf. How many of you in England can describe the law rule in cricket? Or a googly? Or a Chinaman (remember Solers)? Mr Hopkins says that cricket is a mystery to us. Do any of you sipping tea in the pavilion know hashball? Ever heard of the infield fly rule? What's the difference between a triple and a triple play?

Perhaps Mr Hopkins is upset that no European made it past the early rounds (the English players, of course, couldn't handle the "easy course" at all). Yours sincerely, KIM PEREIRA, RR 20, Box 216, Bloomington, Illinois 61701, United States.

From Mr Brin Hodge  
Sir, Isn't it about time that the second service was abolished in first-class tennis? The odds

### Service delivered with a smile

From Mr Dennis Holes  
Sir, Last Sunday, while watching the men's singles final between Richard Krajicek and Greg Rusedski in the Guardian Direct Cup at Boresea, I was reminded of a first-round match in 1961 at the Palace Hotel (Torquay) overdrawn tournament in which I was drawn against top-seeded Mike Sangster (of fond memory). This was the year in which Mike was a semi-finalist in both the Wimbledon and the United States championships.

I lost the first set 6-1, repeatedly falling victim to Sangster's immensely powerful and accurate services. In the third game of the second set, with a grin across the net to Sangster, the score

would still be in the server's favour — particularly in the men's game — but the receiver would have more of a chance, because the server would have to weigh up the possibilities of accuracy versus speed. Whoever heard of a golfer getting a second attempt if his first tee-shot ended up in the rough?

Yours faithfully, BRIN HODGE, 42 Windmill Avenue, Wokingham RG41 3ND.

From Mr Richard Walker  
Sir, As one who watches his rugby from the Crumbe Stand at Welford Road, I read the assertion, made in your pages on March 1, that Martin Johnson may be a marked man with interest but very li-

standing at 40-love. I placed a ball just inside the service court at the junction of the centre and service lines — and silently challenged Sangster to hit it.

Sangster took another ball and, like an archer at the butts, sent across a sizzling service that connected squarely with its tiny target to send it skidding off the court. When the applause died down, Sangster went on to take the set 6-1 for the match.

Yours faithfully, DENNIS HALES, Beethoven, Cheapside Lane, Denham, Buckinghamshire UB9 5AB.

the surprise, I am also unsurprised by the vehemence of comments by your correspondents regarding the ruck-ing incident involving the Leicester captain in the recent Calcutta Cup match.

While not wholly subscribing to the conspiracy theories against Leicester, it is hard not to draw certain conclusions from some of the extraordinary refereeing decisions, and the hypocrisy of certain players, former players and coaches in their comments aimed at our club. The only explanation can be that it is an example of the petty jealousies permeating the game in England. However, it is not my intention to dignify those jealous-

### Going on to the offensive

From Mr David Compton  
Sir, I note your report "Racial disputes blight South African cricket". Whilst accepting that some cricketers might give offence, let us hope that the game's unique terminology should not fall prey to excessive sensitivity.

Calling fielders "short leg" or "silly mid-off" will never, I hope, cause distress to the players concerned and may the batsman whose misfortune it has been "caught pulling" be broadcast to the world by Richie Benaud receive sympathy and understanding from his wife when he returns home. Yours faithfully, DAVID COMPTON, Barn Close House, Iichen Abbas, Winchester SO21 1AX.

From Mr James Hopper  
Sir, An event that is more than 2½ centuries old can hardly be called an eccentric new sport (report, February 28). At present, I am halfway through my Classical Civilisation GCSE course and I was intrigued to read Mr Burton Silver's claim that a long jump in which hand-held weights are used to extend the distance would be a new sport. Weights were used in the very first long

jump in the Olympics of Ancient Greece. A performance of 52ft has been recorded from the 29th Olympic Games in 664BC, although historians believe this is exaggerated. Yours faithfully, JAMES HOPPER, Sunridge, Fairbank Lane, Sunridge, Oxtott, Surrey KT22 0TW.

From Mr P. J. McCloskey  
Sir, I don't know where Oliver Holt obtained the information that Manchester United are now clear favourites to win the European Cup. I bet that's not what the Germans, Italians, Spaniards or Ukrainians think. I'm a United fan and live in hope, but my tip would be Dynamo Kiev.

Yours through untinted glasses, P. J. MCCLOSKEY, 17 Elms Lane, Wembley HA0 2NX.

From Mr L. Kingsley  
Sir, From reading the Saturday "Statistics on Football Offenders" (February 27), the names of Frank Leboeuf, of Chelsea, and Gary Neville, of Manchester United, stand out. Could it be that there is some connection between foul play on the field and football journalism in *The Times*?

Yours faithfully, LAWRENCE KINGSLEY, 7 St James Close, New Malden, Surrey KT3 6DU.

### This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow  
Tim Herrman, above, seeks to continue his climb up the world tennis rankings at the Champions' Cup

Wednesday  
Did Arsenal close the gap on the FA Cup Premiership leaders when they played Sheffield Wednesday?

Thursday  
Who triumphed when Manchester United and Chelsea renewed their FA Cup tussle at Stamford Bridge?

Saturday  
Comprehensive guide to the weekend's football, with top columnists Danny Baker, Alyson Rudd and Frank Leboeuf







## TENNIS

# Schnyder searches for solace

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS

FOR once in her life, Martina Hingis is happy to be in the shadow of someone else. As the Evert Cup moves slowly but surely into the second and third rounds — Hingis took her appointed place with a relatively simple 6-3, 6-4 win over Alexandra Stevenson, of the United States — all eyes were upon Patty Schnyder. The pretender to Hingis's throne as Swiss No 1, Schnyder's every footstep has been dogged by television crews and beives of reporters ever since she joined forces, both on and off the court, with Rainer Harnacker.

Harnacker's influence over the 20-year-old Schnyder has increased steadily since the two met last December. He began as an adviser, is now her boyfriend and since he has been travelling with her on the tour, their relationship has systematically alienated her family, her friends and her colleagues in the game. At the same time, her form has fallen almost as fast as her weight — Harnacker has instituted a new vegan diet for Schnyder that includes her drinking two litres of orange juice a day. In the early hours of Saturday morning, Schnyder just about got through her first-round match against Tamarine Tanasugarn, a woman who appears to do most of her training at the dinner table, and then claimed that at last she was rediscovering her game. "Last month, I spent more time talking to the press than on the practice court," she said. "It has to stop now. Everyone has to let me play tennis. I want to work."

Unfortunately for Schnyder, she has no one to work with. She fired her coach of three years, Eric van Harpen, after the Australian Open and then, at the beginning of last week, hired Vito Gugolz. He had worked with Schnyder when

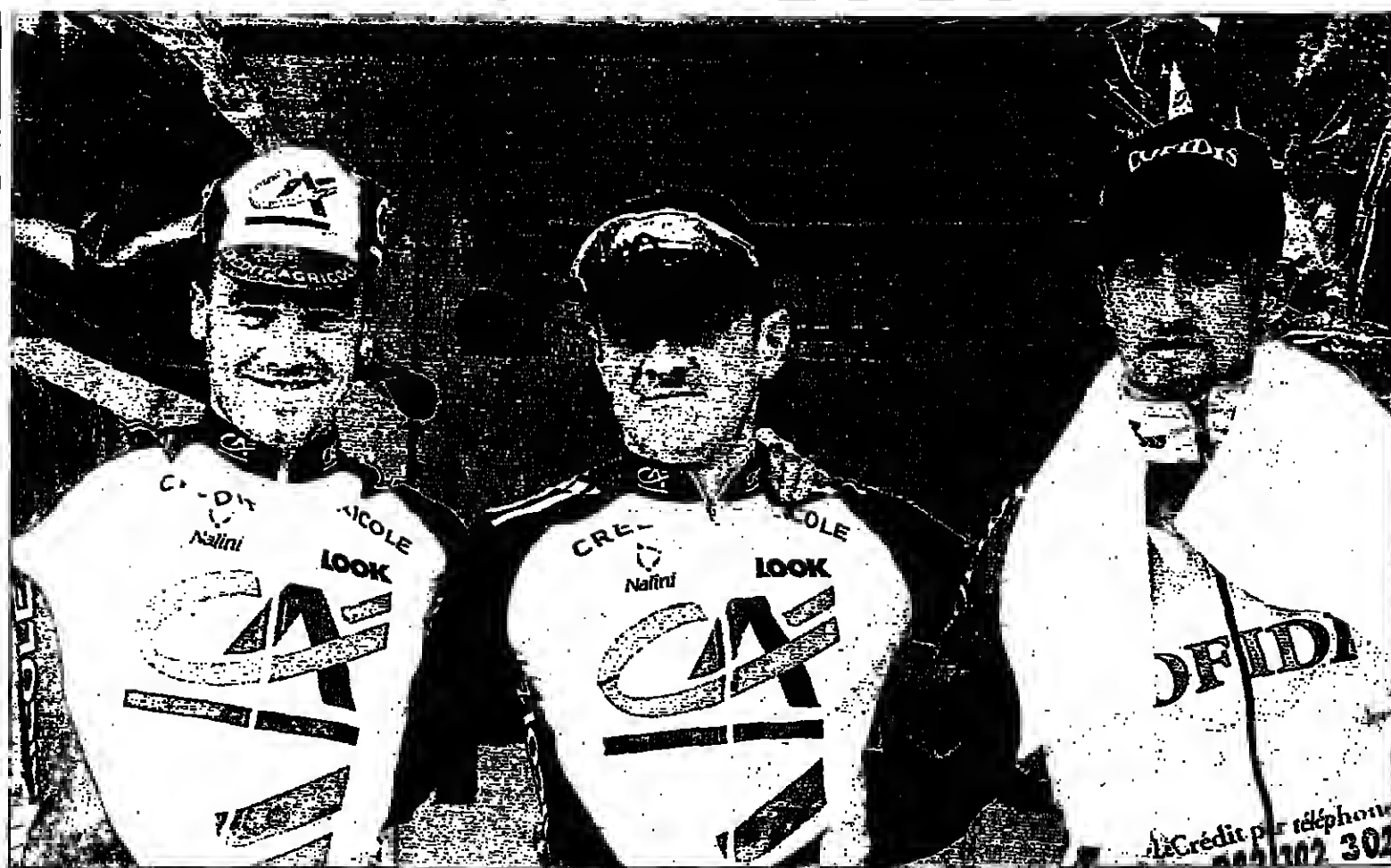
she was a junior and again before she teamed up with Van Harpen and has been one of Schnyder's close friends for the past ten years. Gugolz flew into Indian Wells on Tuesday and, just four practice sessions later, was fired on Thursday, a decision that left Schnyder in floods of tears. Then again, since the arrival of Harnacker, any connection with Schnyder's past has been severed and she appears tentative on court and distinctly edgy off it.

She must now play Alicia Molik, a qualifier from Australia, and, in her present state, that could prove tricky. Should she win, Hingis lies in wait for her. Hingis usually has an opinion on most things — just ask Amelie Mauresmo — but about this she is awfully quiet. "It's her private business and it's not something I can discuss," Hingis said. Private or not, the WTA Tour is keeping a watching brief on the whole affair and, should Harnacker do anything untoward, it is ready to act.

Elsewhere, it was business as usual. Monica Seles grunted to victory over Elena Likhovtseva 7-6, 6-2 and a Russian Anna Kournikova ran out of puff to lose 7-6, 1-6, 7-5 to Silvia Farina. It was Kournikova's forehead that sprayed errors around the court.

Today, the attention will fall on the men for the start of the Newsweek Champions Cup. The draw did British hopes few favours, placing Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski in the same quarter. They are scheduled to meet in the third round, with the winner due to meet Pete Sampras in the quarter-finals.

Henman is keen to renew their doubles partnership prior to the Davis Cup tie next month, but Rusedski, with a runner's-up spot to defend this week, has more on his mind and is delaying a decision.



Boardman is flanked by O'Grady, left, and Vandembroucke after winning the opening time-trial of the Paris-Nice. Photograph: Laurent Rebours

## Boardman beats the clock again

Jeremy Whittle finds the British cyclist in pragmatic mood as the hills approach

CHRIS BOARDMAN earned his first significant win since the 1998 Tour de France prologue with victory in the opening time-trial of the week-long Paris-Nice stage race in Boulogne-Billancourt yesterday.

"I knew that this was primarily a flat course," Boardman, who now leads the race overall, said. "It was well suited to me, so victory here became my first objective of the year."

The Great Britain cyclist won by 2sec from Stuart O'Grady, of Australia, his team-mate, and by 6sec from Franck Vandembroucke, of Belgium, the defending champion. However, with several mountainous stages still to come as the race heads south to the Cote d'Azur, Boardman is being realistic.

"I've had only six days of racing this year, so I'd say that I have only an outside chance of still leading the race by the time we get down to the southern Alps," he said.

While Boardman added another time-trial win to his long list of victories against the clock, most attention focused on the return to French racing of Richard Virenque, the former leader of the Festina team, who was expelled from the Tour de France last year after a doping scandal.

Virenque, who has consistently protested his innocence since then, was set to retire from the sport last winter. Then, however, Polti, the Italian team, came in with an eleven-hour offer to rescue the popular Frenchman's faltering career and Virenque is now rebuilding his fitness with the 1999 Tour as his principal objective.

Despite the presence of Boardman, O'Grady and Virenque, the most likely con-

tenders for final victory are Vandembroucke and Lance Armstrong, a former cancer sufferer from Texas.

Both riders have enjoyed mixed fortunes this spring. Vandembroucke has suffered the loss of a cousin in a car crash and is missing the services of Nico Mettan, his valued team-mate, who has been sidelined with a heart murmur. In spite of those shocks, Vandembroucke has already won three leading races this spring and seen his wife give birth to the couple's first child.

Armstrong had begun the season well, until he dislocated his shoulder while racing in Spain a fortnight ago. Despite that setback, he is determined to be competitive and is relishing the challenge of the key stage next Saturday, a

gruelling climb to the summit finish at the Alpine ski resort of Valberg.

In Spain, Marco Pantani, the Tour de France champion, has picked up where he left off last year, winning the five-day Tour of Murcia after an explosive lone attack on the hilly penultimate stage. Although Pantani is insisting that he may not defend his Tour de France title this summer, blaming the blandness of the 1999 Tour route and its lack of mountains for his reluctance, the diminutive Italian is widely expected to change his mind, once he has completed the Tour of Italy in June.

The immediate future of two other leading riders remains more deeply in doubt. Jan Ullrich, the 1997 Tour de France winner, is enduring an-

other of his characteristically wobbly periods, despite having trained hard all winter to avoid a repetition of his poor form of 1998, while French national Laurent Jalabert, of France, has yet to race on home turf this season.

Ullrich, 25, is already suffering from exhaustion after a bout of flu and a wisdom tooth operation, which is forcing him to delay his competitive return, while Jalabert and ONCE, his Spanish team, still embroiled in a tetchy battle with the French authorities after their walkout at the Tour last summer, seem to be reluctant to cross the French border.

The dust from the doping scandals of nine months ago has still to settle, but the organisers of Paris-Nice, hit by a fall in sponsorship after the revelations, are fervently hoping that the 66th Race to the Sun will arrive unscathed on the Mediterranean coast next weekend.

## ROWING

## Oxford make a rapid start

BY MIKE ROSEWELL  
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD and Cambridge Universities outclassed opposition in private races on the Tideway yesterday.

Oxford, competing against Tideway Scullers in two races between Putney and Hammersmith, showed remarkable speed out of the blocks and the Scullers, albeit with two substitutes on board, were a length down in 46sec in the first contest.

Oxford then powered on, generally at 34 strokes a minute, to lead by five lengths at the mile and, although they then dropped the rate to 32, they held a similar margin at the finish.

The Scullers were fitter off the start in the second race and Oxford did not clear them until 1min 48sec, but the winning margin was again some five lengths at the mile and the finish.

The Cambridge opponents, a London RC lightweight crew, held on to the Light Blues for rather longer in their two rows. In the first, from Putney to Hammersmith, Cambridge took three minutes to gain one length, then, in spite of warnings to Vean Sharif, their coxswain, opened a margin of four lengths by Hammersmith. The second race saw Cambridge win, again with some warnings, by 2½ lengths.

Cambridge were timed unofficially as around 5sec faster than Oxford, but they kept their rate higher from the mile. Both crews have power, but Oxford, at the moment, are using it with more tidiness.

Isis, the Oxford reserve crew, were second at the Reading Head on Saturday behind Oxford Brookes, who retained their title.

The event was in doubt until six hours before the start, when the river authority removed flood warnings and 73 of the scheduled 102 crews were allowed to race.

## AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

## THE TIMES



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| 01 Mika Hakkinen      | 07 Eddie Irvine         | 12 Ralf Schumacher | 18 Jarno Trulli            |  |  |
| 02 Michael Schumacher | 08 Olivier Panis        | 13 HH Frenzen      | 19 Rubens Barrichello      |  |  |
| 03 Damon Hill         | 09 Giancarlo Fisichella | 14 Alexander Wurz  | 20 Pedro Diniz             |  |  |
| 04 David Coulthard    | 10 Jean Alesi           | 15 Mika Salo       | 21 Pedro de la Rosa        |  |  |
| 05 Alessandro Zanardi | 11 Johnny Herbert       | 16 Ricardo Zonta   | 22 Luca Badoer             |  |  |
| 06 Jacques Villeneuve |                         | 17 Marc Gené       | *Replaces Norberto Fontana |  |  |

## CONSTRUCTORS

| GROUP C    |             |             | GROUP D   |            |            |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|
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| 24 Ferrari | 26 Jordan   | 28 Sauber   | 30 BAR    | 32 Prost   |            |

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0640 calls cost 60p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 870 calls)

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## TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grand prix where bonus points apply. To qualify for the start of the Brazilian Grand Prix, postal entries must be received by first post on Wednesday, April 7, 1999.

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## THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

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| 1st                                  | 2nd | 3rd | Surname   |          |     |
|                                      |     |     | Address   |          |     |
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## GOLF

# Moment of magic helps Phillips tie up victory

FROM MEL WEBB IN PENINA, PORTUGAL

THERE was a time when Van Phillips was slightly insouciantly but brutally honest, best known for the splendidly trivial fact that he wore a tie on the golf course. Yesterday, he finally cast aside the noose around his neck and became famous for something else when he won the Algarve Portuguese Open at the first hole of a play-off against John Bickerton.

Phillips, 26, and Bickerton, 29, could not be separated at the top of the leaderboard after 54 holes and, after matching 68s, they were still locked together on 276, 12 under par, at the end of 72. They had long since been the only combatants for the title. Robert Karlsson, Alexander Cejka and Santiago Lina all having finished three strokes behind.

They presented a striking

Scores \_\_\_\_\_ 40

contrast in height and physique: Phillips 5ft 7in and 15st, Bickerton 5in taller and 3st heavier. It was a classic catchweight contest and this time the good little 'un beat the good big 'un.

Bickerton led by a shot on the 17th tee, but the portents were not good. He had bogeyed the hole during the third round on Saturday and remained consistent by doing so again. Three holes earlier, he had led by two strokes and now he was level; he was never to lead again.

The shot that won the tournament for Phillips was his second at the 18th hole. He pulled his tee-shot behind trees and was left with his feet on a carpath that gave him as much grip as carpet slippers on an ice rink. Behind trees, 200 yards from the pin, with Bickerton in the middle of the fairway Calamity loomed: the

way in which he averted it was little short of sorcery.

He declined to take relief from ground under repair since to have done so would have pushed him farther behind the timber. Instead, he played a huge cut shot that bent 30 yards and finished up 30ft from the hole. Two putts later, he was in for a birdie four.

Bickerton's thoughts as he watched Phillips's recovery can only be imagined — he had played the hole virtually perfectly and had ended up no better off than his opponent. At such moments are golf tournaments won and lost.

Bickerton could not have helped but quake a little as he returned to the 17th for the play-off. There was a sequence that absolutely had to be broken if he were to remain in the contest. And he did not to break it, flopping a 20-yard chip feebly into a bunker after missing the green in two. Phillips, meanwhile, lagged up to 2ft and holed the second putt.

Bickerton had to hole his bunker shot to keep the piece alive, and failed. Of course he did, his bogey hole had once again proved to be his bogey hole. Phillips, who won a point for Great Britain and Ireland when they were trounced 19-5 by the United States in the Walker Cup in 1993, thus picked up 93,320 Euros, which, for those who prefer their currency in real money, converts to about £66,650 — the biggest prize of his career.

It was quite a moment for him, but one that was not, apparently, enhanced by the fact that he had won on a course that had been designed by Sir Henry Cotton, patriarch of Penina. "I can't say it had any effect on me at all," he said with blissful insouciance. "He designed a good golf course and that's as far as it goes for me." Oh dear.



Phillips concentrates on his way to victory in the Portuguese Open yesterday

## Position in driving seat eludes worried Bjorn

THOMAS BJORN was at a loose end yesterday. Although he had completed his fourth round at the Doral-Ryder Open, finishing four over par, Greg Kraft, Ernie Els and Glen Day, the three leaders, had not yet begun their final rounds and David Tom had moved to 11 under par by evening the first two holes, a par-five and a par-four, and then producing a birdie at the 3rd.

Bjorn was at a loss to know how to get to Coral Springs, 30 minutes' drive from here, where the Honda Classic takes place this week. He had been lent a car for the duration of the tournament, but that had been taken from him. In Europe, the solution would have been simple. Bjorn would have been given a ride in the courtesy cars that ferry players from their hotels to the course and back again and to and from airports. Here, Bjorn was on his own. In the end, he took a taxi for the 15-mile journey. This was another demonstration of the

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN MIAMI

differences between the United States and European tours. Bjorn, though a Ryder Cup player in 1997 and a likely starter this year, is a newcomer in terms of major championships. He has competed in only seven championships in his competitive career, four of them in the United States.

He will compete in his eighth when he makes his debut at the Masters in four weeks' time, the result of being in the top 50 players at the end of last year. Bjorn's form, therefore, is of some concern to him.

He dismissed his golf last week with one word, "Rubbish," he said. It was his fifth event of the year, his second in the United States and his first strokeplay event on this continent. "Put Thomas on a typical course in Europe and he will hole putts from all over the place," Martin Gray, his

caddie, said, "but over here he can't seem to read the greens at all. Even his shots into the green have to take into account whether they are down grain or against the grain."

Bjorn took 117 putts in his four rounds, which is an acceptable total. Less acceptable was the fact that he reached only 43 of the 72 greens in the required number of strokes.

Patrik Sjolund started steadily and unimpressively in his attempt to finish among the top five, a result that he had been told would be good enough to earn him sufficient points to climb one place in the world rankings — to No 50 — and so gain an invitation to the Masters.

Sjolund, four under par at the start of his round, dropped one stroke on the 2nd hole. That seemed to galvanise him. He birdied the 5th and then rounded out his home-ward half with a spectacular run of three successive birdies to move to seven under par, with nine holes remaining.

# Price proves that the nice guys can win

THE helicopter rose slowly, its rotors spinning furiously, dipped its nose and wobbled into the Florida sky. The symbol N407 NP on the green fuselage denoted it belonged to Nick Price, who was sitting in the co-pilot's seat.

Nick Price, the nicest man in golf, was going home. But there's the rub. Where is the heart of the man who was born in South Africa of an English mother now resident in Norfolk, grew up in Zimbabwe, who follows cricket and rugby throughout the world, whose nephew bowled Sachin Tendulkar when Zimbabwe A played India recently and now lives in Florida?

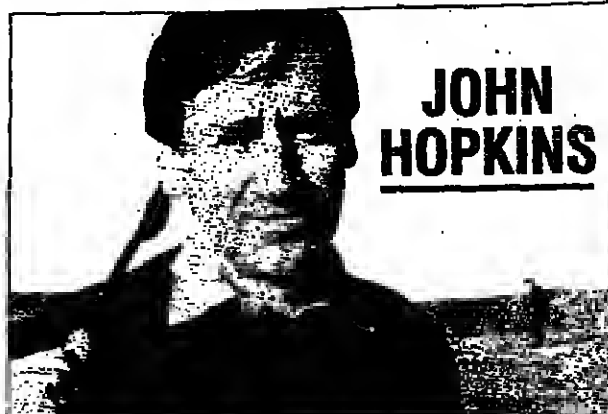
"My real home will always be Zimbabwe and I don't want to lose that identity," Price said. "I love Zimbabwe. But because my kids are growing up in America, this is my home now. I could not go back and live in Zimbabwe for the next 15 years because I want my kids to have the best possible education, but I think in time I would be able to spend half the year there and half the year here. Maybe if things were very stable in the future, I'd probably go back there full time."

What is happening in Zimbabwe is hurting Price deeply and, in a gesture of help, he has donated his earnings from three Presidents' Cup tournaments to children's centres and orphanages in that country.

"It is the most depressing thing," he said. "They are having a tough time surviving. I phone home three or four times each week and there are things going on there that sadden me. Unless something happens, the country will be bankrupt soon. The Government needs to create a new infrastructure because the one that we've got is not working."

Price is working, on the other hand. He is flying high again after a fallow period that followed his stellar years in the early Nineties, when he won three major championships and the Players Championship in a dazzling 23-month spell. In both the 1997 and 1998 seasons, he won more than \$1 million (about £625,000) and his 15 victories on the US PGA Tour in the Nineties was three more than any other player.

Price is aware that good times are just down the next fairway and, as he tells you



JOHN HOPKINS

this, his piercing blue eyes gleam, his voice throbs with excitement and you cannot help but feel swept up by his enthusiasm.

"I wish I could stop everything because I am enjoying life so much now," he said. "I feel at last I have all the ducks in a row. The children are in the right school. Everyone has their health. I sometimes think I would like to be this age for ever."



'I wish it could all stop now because I'm enjoying life so much'

He was 42 a little over one month ago. He looks too young to be described as old, too old to be called young. His grieving at the death from leukaemia of Squeaky Medlen, his long-time caddie, has ended and, after four years and a huge capital outlay, he, Sue, his wife, and their three children, are happily settled in their dream house on Jupiter Island (Greg Norman is a neighbour) near Palm Beach.

"A few years ago my wife and I had a vision of what we wanted our house and our life to be like and we have worked really hard to get to where we are now. The vision was to have space for all of us where we can do the things we want to do — fish and spend holidays together as a family, be in the sun, have good weather. I always felt a happy family is a healthy family and if there is no stress and no angst and you take care of the kids, they will take care of you."

Price has a high regard for the way in which he was brought up and has tried to instil many of the same values in his own children.

"I am conscious it might be difficult for them, being the children of a rich father," he says. "My son knows we are rich. His friends see the money that we make in the papers. He'll get over that. It is up to me to try to explain to him that the money we make is a by-product of doing something I love doing very well."

"This is what he has to understand, not that I play for the money, because, when I started playing golf, I was just trying to make a living at the game. When he gets older and we go out in a fishing boat together, I'll be able to tell him: 'This is how it happened.'"

Price's assistants started circling, reminding one of how rich and successful is the man ranked No 9 in the world of golf. One handed him a cigarette, which he smoked surreptitiously. Another brought him a pair of cycling shoes complete with rubber-studded soles and took his golf shoes from him as he changed out of them. Then they climbed into the car, and began studying the controls.

Nick Price, the nicest man in golf, was heading home.

## Farah puts language to good use

ONE of the most heartening sights in sport on Saturday was at the English Schools Cross-Country Championships, where rain, sleet, snow, mud and a chill wind were defied with admirable fortitude. And that was just by the officials and spectators.

For many of the 2,000 competitors, the experience on the hills of Stapsley Park, Luton must have been a searing one. Yet, over the past 40 years, this event is where international stars have been nurtured. Peter Elliott, Eamonn Martin, Julian Ginter, Paula Radcliffe and Christina Boxer have won titles, while Seb Coe, David Moorcroft and Steve Cram have all been prominent.

Cram remembers the significance of the championships in which he finished third in 1975, terming it a "good rehearsal" for events such as the Commonwealth and Olympic Games. "We were away from home, possibly for the first time, put into a strange environment with people you haven't run against, which is what you go through in a major championship."

John Goodbody watches the next generation of British athletes shine in the mud



One runner who showed the potential on Saturday to make an impact as an adult was Mohammed Farah, 15, from Feltham Community School, Middlesex, who skinned over the cloying surface to take the intermediate 6,500 metres title in 21min 22sec, nearly a minute clear of his Abdi Ali, his Middlesex team-mate.

The winner of the junior 600 metres race, he has run 3,000 metres on the track in 8min 33sec and has both pace and stamina allied to a smooth style. Farah came to Great Britain from his native Somalia in 1993 and, for a while, always finished second because

he had to track a front-runner as he could not understand the directions from the course marshals. Now he speaks English fluently and is making everyone else follow him.

Alan Watkinson, his PE teacher, said: "He has learnt most of his English from athletics. The sport has given him great self-esteem."

Farah has told Alex McGee, his coach at Hounslow AC, that he wants to cut 20sec off his 3,000 metres time this year, which would be extraordinary. However, McGee said: "His attitude to training has changed recently because we have some other boys of

real quality coming into the training group and they have pushed him."

Steven Vernon, 18, of Ridge Dancers College, Greater Manchester, took the senior boys' 8,000 metres title, drifting away from Christopher Bolt, of Berkshire, who had been running alongside him at the start of a long third loop. Vernon used to suffer from a series of viruses, but he has been in good health since having his tonsils removed last year.

Had he been tempted during his troubles to give up the sport? "I thought about it, but, once you've got the bug for running, you keep at it," he said. So has Courtney Birch, 14, from Millfield School, Somerset. She was second in the 1998 national age group swimming championships for the 400 metres individual medley, but she went one better on Saturday as she won the junior girls' 3,500 metres title. Another notable win came from Haide Dean, of St Helen's School, Oxfordshire, who beat a cluster of talented senior girls in the 4,500 metres race.

HOCKEY: HIGHTOWN RECOVER TWICE TO SECURE LAST PLAY-OFF POSITION

## Ipswich humbled by Cullen performance Late goal by Simons rescues Southgate

THREE goals by Tina Cullen, the England and Great Britain striker, helped Hightown to come from behind twice to beat Ipswich, the leaders, and secure the fourth and last place alongside Slough, Ipswich and Clifton in the Women's National League premier division play-offs (Cathy Harris writes).

Cullen's treble, including the winner two minutes from time, was in response to two goals by Sarah Bamfield and took her tally to 18 for the season, showing why she is not only the league's leading goalscorer but the all-time overall marksman in the league.

While the Merseyside team were mulling sure of their spot in the top four, several other important fixtures involving clubs anxious for their futures were postponed because of

snow-covered pitches. Sutton Coldfield and Doncaster, who are struggling at the foot of the table, were among those affected, as were Loughborough Students, who faced a crucial game against Bradford.

After the postponed match away to Doncaster on Saturday, Slough took a step closer to finishing ahead of Ipswich in pole position in the table after Fiona Greenham and Karen Brown, their internationalists, scored a goal in each half in their 2-1 victory over Clifton yesterday to put them level on points with the Suffolk club.

In wet, windy and cold conditions, neither team produced a vintage performance, with Slough going 2-0 ahead before Denise Marston-Smith reduced the deficit in the last minute.

SOUTHGATE recovered twice at home yesterday to share four goals with Cannock, the current National League premier division champions (Sydney Friskin writes). The game was marred by bad weather that made playing conditions difficult and may have accounted for Cannock's lapses in front of goal.

If Sharpe had hit the target midway through the second half, Cannock would have gone 3-1 ahead. Instead, Southgate shared the points with a well-taken goal by Simons with only four minutes left.

The lead that Edwards had given Cannock from a short corner in the 23rd minute was cancelled out by Shaw nine minutes before half-time, only for Mayer to restore Cannock's advantage off the rebound from another short cor-

ner ten minutes into the second half.

Reading, who had knocked Canterbury out of the EHA Cup a week ago, beat the Kent side at home 6-3, with Pearn and Ashdown scoring two goals each. Guildford were trounced 7-1 at home by Teddington, with Garrard scoring three goals. Jennings had put Guildford in the lead from a short corner in the second minute.

Brooklands recorded their first win in 18 matches by beating Hounslow 3-2, but are still bottom of the table. A flooded pitch at Hull caused the postponement of the first division match against Surbiton, who would have been without Nichol, their forward. He was busy scoring two goals for South Africa in a 3-2 victory over Australia in Pretoria.

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# A swinging time had by all



## Sally Jones plays the supportive parent as her children enjoy their first taste of gymnastics

There was a collective gasp as the small group of newcomers crept into the high, spacious gymnasium and took in the sheer variety of apparatus on show: trampettes, tumbling rings swinging from the ceiling, a vaulting horse with a run-up the length of the gym, a four-inch beam at waist height surrounded by deep-pile crash-mats and two sets of bars, asymmetric and single, above a deep pit filled with mountains of foam-rubber chunks for the softest of landings. Among the first-timers were my two children, Roly, 8, and Madeline, 6, who looked suitably amazed.

"It's like the best playground you ever saw," Roly said. "Can I have a swing like that boy?" He pointed to a wiry-looking 9-year-old who was flicking his legs to and fro as he hung like a pendulum from the high rings, an instructor at the ready in case of a fall.

Madeline, meanwhile, was transfixed by the sight of a tiny, muscular girl in a white, sparkly leotard, sprinting down the tumbling track and, after a series of spectacular back-flips, finishing with a double back somersault into the



foam pit. Impressed though she was by the fluent tumbling, it was the leotard that Madeline really coveted and the look of longing said more clearly than any words that her own garb, the white T-shirt and shorts of her school gym kit, was definitely second-best.

It was an auspicious start to both children's first taste of gymnastics, as the newest recruits to Coventry Olympic Gymnastics Club in the gym at Warwick University.

"Line up, everyone," Tex Coton, the tough, jolly ex-Army PTI who runs the club, instructed. "Stand tidy." At once, the 30 children working in small groups on the different pieces of apparatus

dashed over and formed neat lines, feet turned out, arms held at their sides, hands rounded balletically. The newcomers slouched and drooped, feet turned in until shown the desired posture, but, from then on, they stood like pouter pigeons, aching to emulate the old hands.

The hour-long afternoon class, one of scores held at the gym each week, caters for children aged from 5 to 18 with a variety of standards — from total beginners to national squad members. The club includes several youngsters with special needs, among them Laura Bateman, 13, who

was born with a hip problem that left her with one leg shorter and thinner than the other. Bateman, the British junior disabilities champion, who has, astoundingly, just achieved a place in the able-bodied county squad, regularly trains for four hours a day, achieving high-level moves,

like back-flips on the beam, which means that she can compete on equal terms with able-bodied youngsters at regional level. She has also amazed doctors by building up so much strength in her weaker leg that, apart from a slight limp, it is hard to believe that she is disabled at all.

The whole class did a string of stretching and suppling exercises, humping and hollowing their backs, sitting with legs straight and wide apart then walking their hands out as far as they could between them. Roly yelped when his hamstring winged as Coton pressed down gently on his back, but he giggled as he finally succeeded in pushing himself up into a bridge, then admired the perfect arch of Reece Cleall, 10, a relative newcomer but one of the club's most promising boys.

Madeline took her first tentative steps on the beam, learning to walk along it, arms out, head held high, swinging her feet through with pointed toes and trying small, two-footed jumps, knees locked together fore and aft ("Look at me tight-rope-walking, mummy"). After several minutes of painstaking hops and steps, she got the hang of the run-up for the vault, dashing on to the springboard and bouncing off it two-footed to land, feet together, between her hands on top of the horse.

By now, Roly had achieved his ambition on the rings and was swinging for minutes on end, legs straight and (roughly) together, face puce and wreathed in smiles ("Remember to keep breathing, mummy"). Madeline watched rapt as her heroine in the white leotard, Lizzie Garbutt, 9, a slender sprit with exquisite poise and

extension and the West Midlands under-10 team jumbling champion, went through her floor routine.

The youngest children ended the class bounding on the trampettes and jumping off with a half-twist in the air before landing on the tick mats, flexing their knees neatly. The whole group then sprinted at top speed around the gym and threw themselves into the pit of foam-rubber beneath the bars in a giggly finale that banished the atmosphere of sustained concentration.

For the newcomers, the need to focus for a solid hour on a range of unfamiliar drills plus the physical demands of the session proved to be exhausting, but everyone left the gym smiling with a sense of purpose and achievement.

Now, four sessions later, Madeline and Roly are as enthusiastic as ever, but far more attuned to the discipline of standing tidily in line waiting their turn and following instructions. They even practise bridges and handstands in the garden and Madeline pleads for a red velvet leotard several times a day. For the moment, though, this has been put on hold as reimbursement for an energetic bouncing session in which her bed proved unequal to the combined weight of two excited children using it as a trampette.

Gymnastics offers children the chance to swing, leap and bounce their way through training sessions. Rather than a place of hard graft, gymnastics can be more like playgrounds to many. Photographs: Stuart Harrison

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT  
Today's hand comes from a new book, *Expert Tuition*, by Raymond and Sally Bruck.

| Dealer West                       | E-W Game                            | IMPs                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ♠ 7632<br>♥ A87<br>♦ AQ53<br>♣ KJ | ♠ A10<br>♥ KJ93<br>♦ 86<br>♣ A10853 | ♠ QJ95<br>♥ -<br>♦ K972<br>♣ Q9742 |
| ♠ 106542<br>♥ J104<br>♦ -<br>♣ 6  | ♠ K84<br>♥ Q106542<br>♦ J104<br>♣ 6 | ♠ -<br>♥ -<br>♦ -<br>♣ -           |

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: six of spades.

(1) Astro, showing hearts and another suit

Four Hearts is an excellent game. Declarer needs either to take two ruffs in the dummy, or to set up an extra trick in the club suit or ... a misdefence.

Declarer won the spade lead, played a club to the ace and ruffed a club. She then played the jack of diamonds from hand which West won with the queen and switched to a trump. Declarer won in dummy and ruffed a club high, now needing the club break because she was not going to be allowed to take two ruffs in the dummy.

West now made the mistake of overruffing and playing a second trump. With only two dummy's trumps having been drawn, declarer was back on track. She simply conceded a diamond and later ruffed a diamond and a spade in the dummy.

This is a fairly common defensive situation in which it is generally wrong to over-ruff, for by so doing you draw only one of your opponents' trumps with one of yours. If you can gain the lead and then play your ace of trumps you draw two of their trumps with one of yours.

*Expert Tuition* is written in a chatty style as a conversation between the two authors who have played a 64-board match in the same team but in different partnerships. All 64 hands are discussed in detail.

The book (published by B. T. Batsford) is available from Chess & Bridge, 369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AR; tel: 0171 388 2404, price £9.99 including postage and packing.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

UPANISHADS  
a. Far Eastern dwellings  
b. Protective legwear  
c. Sacred writings

VENTIFACT  
a. Shaped stone  
b. Tailoring style  
c. A blowhole

ANALEMNA  
a. Irritation  
b. Solar scale  
c. Calculus

POPINJAY  
a. The peacock  
b. A zip fastener  
c. A target

Answers on page 46

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov dominates

By defeating his main rival, Viswanathan Anand, in a complicated and exciting game, Garry Kasparov has moved into a seemingly decisive lead in the elite tournament at Linares in Spain. Kasparov consolidated his lead by drawing against his other main rival, Vladimir Kramnik. In the seventh round.

The win against Anand by Kasparov is extraordinary, with Kasparov launching a violent counterattack as Black with his own king marooned in the centre. After virtually unfathomable complications, Anand's resistance cracked when he missed a likely draw in a difficult endgame and soon had to resign.

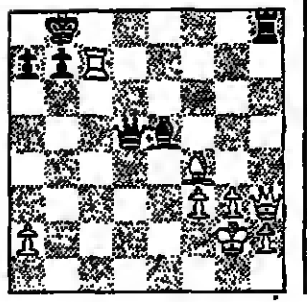
White: Viswanathan Anand  
Black: Garry Kasparov  
Linares 1999

| Sicilian Defence |      |
|------------------|------|
| 1 e4             | c5   |
| 2 Nf3            | d5   |
| 3 d4             | cxd4 |
| 4 Nd4            | Nf6  |
| 5 Nc3            | a6   |
| 6 Bg5            | b5   |
| 7 Be3            | b4   |
| 8 g4             | Nb7  |
| 9 Qx2            | Bb7  |
| 10 O-O           | Ba7  |
| 11 h4            | Nd7  |
| 12 Nb1           | c5   |
| 13 Bb3           | g5   |
| 14 Ng5           | Nxg5 |
| 15 exd5          | Nxd5 |
| 16 Bg5           | Qb6  |
| 17 Bg2           | Rh1  |
| 18 Bx1           | Rc8  |
| 19 Re1           | Qa5  |
| 20 f4            | Qa2  |
| 21 f5            | Nc5  |
| 22 Be5           | Bg7  |
| 23 e6            | Kf7  |
| 24 Bx5+          | Qx5  |
| 25 Re7+          | Kg6  |
| 26 Re7+          | Kg7  |

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Macieja - Stefanova, Elista 1998. All White's pieces are under attack, but White found a clear cut way to simplify the position to advantage. What did White play?



Solution on page 46

## Dedication the name of the game in pursuit of stardom

Suppleness remains an essential ingredient if young gymnasts are to reach the top

GYMNASTICS was widely practised in Ancient Greece and Rome and remains an enjoyable, all-round system for strengthening and making the whole body supple. Most children undertake some form of gymnastics at school and an estimated 300,000 belong to specialist clubs, training in artistic gymnastics or another of the allied disciplines such as sports acrobatics (mainly floor work), tumbling or rhythmic gymnastics, which is performed to music and involves apparatus including clubs, hoops, ropes and balls as part of its routines.

Female artistic gymnasts compete on four pieces of apparatus — beam, floor, vault and asymmetric bars; the men work on six — parallel bars, high bar, pommel horse, vault, floor and rings. Competitors perform choreographed routines that must include the prescribed elements appropriate to their level. They are judged on execution, including neatness, power, control and interpretation, as well as on the degree of difficulty attempted.

In general, the judges give marks out of ten for each routine and medals are awarded to the top performers on the individual pieces of apparatus as well as to the overall winners who achieve the best combined marks from all the disciplines. At the highest level, gymnastics is a gruelling, all-consuming discipline akin

to ballet in the dedication that it demands. The correct physique is vital: most top gymnasts are short, with narrow hips and powerful legs to produce the ideal blend of strength, speed and lightness. Natural flexibility, particularly in the back and legs, is also a great advantage, reducing the hours of conditioning needed to reach the top.

Traditionally, Eastern European countries have dominated the sport. Thousands of talented youngsters as young as 5 and their parents are measured to check whether they should develop the correct physique. The most gifted and dedicated then train for up to six hours a day in sports schools with top-class coaches, competing internationally across the world, a system that has produced scores of champions but also a high drop-out rate, because of chronic injury, anorexia (a significant problem among young female gymnasts obsessed with the need

to stay knife-thin), burn-out and boredom with such a lifestyle.

Over the past two decades, thanks to the influence of tiny prodigies such as Olga Korbut and Nadia Comaneci, the emphasis, particularly in women's gymnastics, has shifted away from a more artistic and balletic style towards athletic, technically complex routines with spectacular tumbling at a premium. This was the main reason for the emergence of the crop of waif-like stars, many barely into their teens.

The pendulum, however, is perhaps beginning to swing the other way. Svetlana Boginskaya, of Belarus, a former Olympic champion and a notably feminine performer, amazed the gymnastic world when she took overall silver at the European championships in 1996 at the age of 24. At the start of 1997, a rule was introduced to prevent girls younger than 16 from competing in world, European and Olympic championships at senior level, to ease the pressure on the teenagers.

Great Britain's elite gymnasts train mainly at the National Sports Centre at Lillieshall, but, although their schedules are now comparable with the Eastern Europeans in terms of diet, mental attitude and injuries, the general approach is far less authoritarian.

SALLY JONES

### FACT BOX

**HOW TO START?** There are almost 1,000 clubs registered with the British Gymnastics Association (BGA) in Great Britain, ranging from low-key organisations, with a handful of children training for a few hours a week, to top-class outfits, such as the national women's champions, Heston and City of Liverpool, with many members of all ages working in state-of-the-art gyms with top coaches.

**COST:** Club subscriptions range from £20 to £100 a term, depending on the club and professional status of the equipment. **KIT:** As gymnasts train and compete barefoot, they need little specialist clothing, apart from a leotard: £10-£30 depending on quality and a tracksuit usually costing between £10 and £50. **TESTS:** The BGA sets a series of graded age-group tests from beginner level up to international standard. Many gymnasts who simply train for fun and exercise opt to take only the recreational level tests rather than the competitive ones. Moving up the grades at the higher levels depends on success in appropriate competitions as well as passing the relevant tests. For safety reasons, gymnasts are only allowed to move on to the next level after proving that they are ready to attempt it.

**WHERE TO WATCH BRITAIN'S STARS IN ACTION:** March 13: Adam Shield, Leeds (the men's most sought-after and oldest team championship). March 20: Women's international: Great Britain v Slovakia, at the Guildford Spectrum (plus women's grade championships). March 20: Northwest Open, Liverpool (men's championships). April 17-18: Women's club team championships, Bognor.

**INFORMATION:** The British Gymnastics Association, Membership Department, Ford Hall, Lillieshall National Sports Centre, Nr Newport, Shropshire, TF10 9NB. Tel: 01952 820330. Coventry Olympic Gymnastics Club (Tex Coton): Tel: 01203 711068.



A typical training session at Warwick University











## Court of Appeal

## Time limit not against EC law

Matra Communication SA v Home Office

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Buxton

[Judgment February 25]

The three-month time limit laid down in a statutory instrument for challenging the terms of a public service contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Communities was not in breach of EC law, since in the absence of a sufficiently close comparable limitation period on similar domestic claims the government was free to set any limitation period which did not make it virtually impossible or excessively difficult to obtain redress.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Matra Communication SA, from an order of Mr Justice Rattee made on July 31, 1998 on trial of preliminary issues in the plaintiff's action for a declaration that the Home Office was in breach of article 30 and/or article 32 of Council Directive 92/50 (EU 1992 L209/1) on the coordination of procedures for the award of public service contracts, and/or regulation 8 of the Public Services Contract Regulations (SI No 1993 No 3228) by excluding systems based on Tetrapol technology from the terms of tender for public safety radio communications contracts.

Mr David Vaughan, QC and Mr Mark Beasley for Matra; Mr

Charles Flint and Mr Adam Lewis for the Home Office.

LORD JUSTICE BUXTON said Matra was a French company specialising in the design of mobile radio telephone systems to be used by limited groups on a secure basis. They had a system based on Tetrapol technology. The main rival system, produced by a consortium, Quadram, which included BT, was based on Tetra technology.

The Home Office was seeking a new secure radio system for use by police, and possibly by other public services.

Its specification for the contract called for Tetra technology, which excluded Matra.

Matra maintained that there was a breach of the directly effective provisions of articles 30 and 32 of the EU Treaty and of article 32 of Directive 92/50 which required contracting authorities to ensure there was no discrimination between different service providers.

The Home Office denied the claims on the basis that European procurement rules required them to specify Tetra, as being the approved standard. That claim was not in issue in the appeal.

Before the judge, the Home Office had succeeded in having the action, in effect, struck out because it had not been brought within the time limit.

The issues in the appeal were: 1 Was the action brought promptly and to any event within three months of the date when grounds

for bringing it arose, as required by regulation 32(4)(b)?

2 Was that requirement of regulation 32(4)(b) in conformity with EC law?

3 If so, was the judge correct in refusing to extend the time limit?

In his Lordship's judgment, on any sensible view of the facts, it was plain to Matra some 15 months before they issued their writ that they were suffering, or at least risked suffering, damage by reason of the configuration of the radio project.

The central issue in the appeal was whether the three-month requirement of the regulation was in conformity with Community law.

Did the limitation period cause the whole scheme of remedies, including the limitation period, to breach the UK's obligation to provide remedies for breaches of Community provisions that comply with the requirements of Community jurisprudence?

The European Court of Justice in *Palmisani v DPNP* (Case C-261/95) [1997] ECR I-4025, paragraph 27 had held that the state had to make reparation on the basis of the rules of national law on liability and that the conditions, in particular time limits, for reparation must be not less favourable than those relating to similar domestic claims (principle of equivalence) and must not be so framed as to make it virtually impossible or excessively difficult to obtain reparation (principle of effectiveness).

The judge had correctly refused to extend the time limit.

Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Hirst agreed.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson; Treasury Solicitor.

## Law Report March 8 1999

## Working time is term of contract

Barber and Others v RJB Mining UK Ltd

Before Mr Justice Gage

[Judgment March 3]

Regulation 4(1) of the Working Time Regulations (SI 1998 No 1833) imposed a contractual obligation on an employee to ensure that an employee worked no more than the statutory maximum of 48 hours in any given week.

Where, therefore, an employee worked in excess of those hours he would be able to bring civil proceedings in the High Court and not in an employment tribunal.

Mr Justice Gage so held in the Queen's Bench Division in granting a declaration that having worked in excess of the statutory maximum in a certain reference period the plaintiffs did not need to work until such time as their working time fell within statutory limits.

The plaintiffs, Mr Steven Barber, Mr Paul Bennett, Mr John Bentley, Mr Peter Bullin and Mr Alan Guy, were command supervisors, known as deputies, who worked in the coal mining industry. They were all members of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shifters (NACODS).

The defendants, RJB Mining UK Ltd, owned and managed coal mines in the Yorkshire area where the plaintiffs were employed.

In the 17-week period after the 1998 Regulations came into force in October 1, 1998 the plaintiffs worked in excess of an average of 48 hours a week. The plaintiffs were required to work at weekends, in excess of their contractual hours of 42 hours a week, in order to keep mines open.

On December 7, 1998 the defendants sent a letter to their employees in which they sought agreement to opt out of the 48-hour working time limit. NACODS advised its members not to sign an opt-out agreement until satisfactory negotiations with the defendants on wages had been completed.

On January 25, 1999 the plaintiffs refused to sign the opt-out agreement. However, each was required to continue working and did so under protest and without prejudice to the rights sought in the instant proceedings.

The plaintiffs sought a declaration and injunctions against the defendants. The relief was designed to declare rights claimed by the plaintiffs under regulation 4 of the 1998 Regulations and enforcement of those rights by means of injunctions.

Regulation 4 of the 1998 Regulations, made in order to give effect to EU Council Directive 93/104/EC of November 23, 1993 (OJ 1993 L307 p18), provides:

"(1) Subject to regulation 5, a worker's working time including overtime, in any reference period

shall not exceed an average of 48 hours for each seven days.

"(2) An employer shall take all reasonable steps, in keeping with the need to protect the health and safety of workers, to ensure that the time limit specified in paragraph (1) is complied with in the case of each worker employed by him in relation to whom it applies."

Mr Brian Langstaff, QC and Mr Jason Galbraith-Marten for the plaintiffs; Mr Nicholas Underhill, QC and Mr Anthony Sendall for RJB.

MR JUSTICE GAGE said the crucial issue was whether paragraph (1) of regulation 4 stood alone, or whether it had to be read together with paragraph (2). His Lordship did not accept that paragraphs (1) and (2) must be read together.

Mr Langstaff was correct when he submitted that to so would have the effect of reducing or making uncertain the limit of the maximum average working hours permitted in any week.

It seemed clear that Parliament intended that all contracts of employment should be read so as to provide that an employee should work no more than an average of

48 hours in any week during the reference period.

It seemed that that was a mandatory requirement which had to apply to all contracts of employment.

The fact that paragraph (1) did not state that an employer was prohibited from requiring his employee from working longer hours, did not prevent that paragraph from having the effect of placing an obligation on an employer not to require an employee to work more than the permitted number of hours.

Such an obligation was in keeping with the stated objective of Directive 93/104/EC (1993 OJ L307 p18) of providing for health and safety of employees.

Paragraph (2) did impose an obligation on an employer but it was a qualified obligation. As such it was different from the mandatory terms of paragraph (1).

It was one of those obligations the breach of which could be the subject of criminal proceedings. It could be that it was for that reason that the qualification was inserted.

Whatever might be the reason, the obligation in paragraph (2), was in his Lordship's view, separate and distinct from the clear and precise terms of paragraph (1).

His Lordship said breach of paragraph (2) of regulation 4, subject as it was to criminal proceedings, could fairly be said to be an obligation which could only be dealt with in the manner provided for by the regulations.

Having held that paragraph (1) of regulation 4 provided free standing legal rights and obligations under the plaintiffs' contracts of employment, it followed that to require them to continue to work before sufficient time had elapsed to bring the weekly average below 48 hours was a breach of regulation 4(1).

In his Lordship's judgment the plaintiffs were entitled to the grant of a declaration. The fact that the proceedings had to be seen against the background of negotiations and as a tactical manoeuvre in the union's dispute with the defendants did not mean that the plaintiffs were not entitled to the declaration sought.

The declaration would have the effect of making it clear that they were entitled, if they so chose, to refuse to continue working until the average working hours came within the specified limit.

His Lordship declined to grant the injunctions sought.

Solicitors: Keeble, Hawson & Moorhouse, Sheffield; Freshfields.

## Litigant has no right to lay adviser in chambers

Regina v Bow County Court, Ex parte Pelling

Before Lord Justice Oun and Mrs Justice Steel

[Judgment March 11]

The right to act as a McKenzie friend, a lay adviser to a litigant in person, (McKenzie v McKenzie [1971] P 33) existed where a hearing was in open court.

Where, however, a hearing was held in chambers, the judge had a discretion whether to permit the presence of a McKenzie friend. The exercise of that discretion was subject to challenge by the litigant in person and not by the McKenzie friend.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, in dismissing an application for judicial review of the refusal of Judge Goldstein, on December 9, 1997, to permit Michael John Pelling to act as a McKenzie friend in chambers in a family case at Bow County Court.

Mr Pelling in person; Mr Rabinder Singh for Bow County Court.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that the court was unable to accept that the common law had evolved in the provision of legal services to the point where there was now a right of a McKenzie friend to be

present in chambers. The fact that legal aid might no longer be available in a range of cases where it was formerly did not create any right or greater status for McKenzie friends. Barristers and solicitors who appeared or assisted on a pro bono basis did so as of right, even in chambers, by virtue of their professional standing.

The fact that Mr Pelling acknowledged, and asserted, that he had a duty to "his client", falling short, as he initially maintained, but later rested from, of a duty of care, did not assist him.

Mr Pelling might wish to call and think of those whom he assisted as his "clients" but that did not establish a professional relationship in any legal sense, except that possibly, where he did it for reward, an obligation arose to be present at court on the day of the hearing.

His "client", the litigant in person, must still seek the leave of the court for Mr Pelling to act as a McKenzie friend. The other side might object whether represented or not.

Where the hearing was in open court there was a right to a McKenzie friend. That right was vested solely in the litigant in person; there was no correlative right vested in the McKenzie friend. Where

the hearing was in chambers there was a discretion in the judge to permit the presence of a McKenzie friend. Any challenge to the exercise of the judge's discretion could be made only by the litigant in person. He alone sought redress from the court.

The McKenzie friend had neither the right to be in chambers nor to permit the exercise of judicial discretion to exclude him. In his Lordship's judgment, it followed that he had no locus standi to bring these judicial review proceedings.

Further, no general duty existed for a judge to give reasons for his decision to exclude a McKenzie friend.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

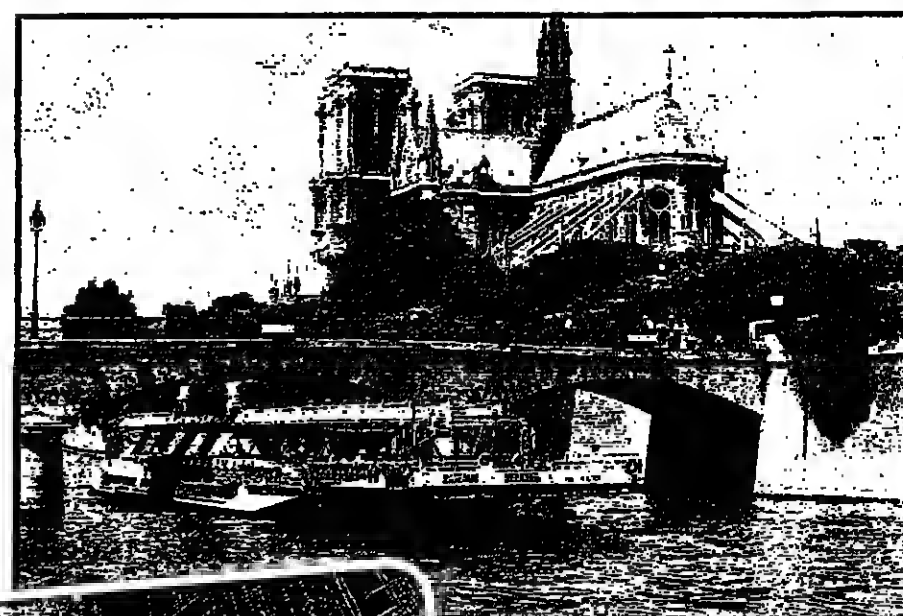
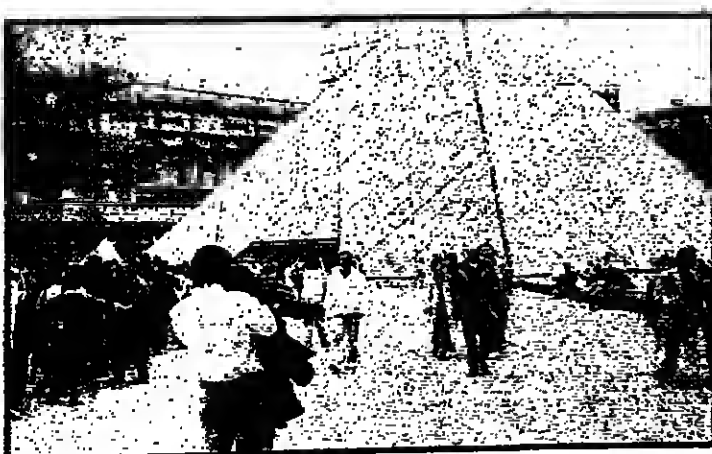
## Correction

In *Wards Construction (Medway) Ltd v Kent County Council* (The Times March 3) the appellant was Kent County Council, represented by Mr Malcolm Spence, QC, Mr Adrian Trevelyan Thomas and Mr Thomas Lowe, and the respondents were Wards Construction (Medway) Ltd, represented by Mr Gerard Ryan, QC and Mr Rodney Stewart Smith.

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## CHANGING TIMES



# Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| Mid cap | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E |
|---------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
|---------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----|

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

| Mid cap   | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 17,900.00 | Alcon   | 17.90 | +0.10  | 3.2   | 17.9 |
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## BANKS

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## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

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## DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

| Mid cap   | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-------|------|
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## ELECTRICITY

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## ELECTRONIC & ELECT

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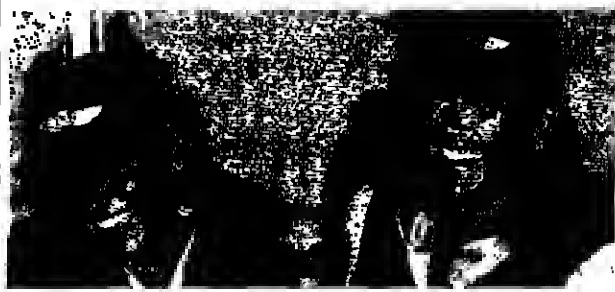
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| Mid cap   | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
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| 17,900.00 | Alcon   | 17.90 | +0.10  | 3.2   | 17.9 |
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| 17,900.00 | Alcon   | 17.90 | +0.10  | 3.2   | 17.9 |

## OTHER FINANCIAL

| Mid cap   | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 17,900.00 | Alcon   | 17.90 | +0.10  | 3.2   | 17.9 |
| 17,900.00 | Alcon   | 17.90 | +0.10  | 3.2   | 17.9 |

## RETAILERS, FOOD

| Mid cap   | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 17,900.00 | Alcon   | 17.90 | +0.10  | 3.2   | 17.9 |
| 17,900.00 | Alcon   | 17.90 | +0.10  | 3.2   | 17.9 |

## RETAILERS, GENERAL

| Mid cap   | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 17,900.00 | Alcon   | 17.90 | +0.10  | 3.2   | 17.9 |
| 17,900.00 | Alcon   | 17.90 | +0.10  | 3.2   | 17.9 |

## PHARMACEUTICALS

| Mid cap   | Company | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 17,900.00 | Alcon   | 17.90 | +0.10  | 3.2   | 17.9 |
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| 17,900.00 | Alcon   | 17.90 | +0.10  | 3.2   | 17.9 |

## BANKS

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| 170.00 | 135.00 | 17.47 | 84 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 126.50 | 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## THE FACTS

Market cap: £6.4 billion  
Turnover: (year to September 30, 1998) £4.61 billion  
Pre-tax profits: £834 million  
Operating profit before exceptional: £722 million  
Employees: 80,000-plus  
Overview: Bass describes itself as an international hospitality and leisure group, focusing on hotels, leisure retailing and branded drinks.

## THE BOARD

Sir Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive since 1987, joined Bass in 1989, being appointed to the board in 1978 and made group managing director in 1984. Although his retention of the two top jobs does not accord with best corporate governance practice, the strength of the directors heading Bass's three divisions has tended to deflect any criticism. Sir Ian, 55, is a non-executive director of Lloyds TSB and is deputy chairman of BP Amoco.

The finance director is Richard North, who joined from Burton Group in 1994. He previously spent 23 years with Coopers & Lybrand. Mr North, 48, is a non-exec at Asda, Leeds Sporting and Felcor Lodging Trust.

The head of Bass Hotels & Resorts is Tom Oliver, 57, who joined the group in 1997 after spells with Federal Express, Thomas Cook, Hertz and American Airlines.

His counterpart at Bass Leisure Retail is Tim Clarke, 41, who was appointed to the board in 1996 and is a non-exec at Debenhams. The chief executive of Bass Breweries is Ian Napier, 49, who is also on Perry Group's board.

The director of personnel and company secretary is Spencer Wigley, 56, a solicitor, who joined Bass in 1992.

Bass has five non-executive directors, led by the deputy chairman, Sir Michael Perry. He is chairman of Centrica and Dunlop Skizenger and a non-exec of Marks & Spencer. The others are: Sir Geoffrey Mueselty, chief executive of Kingfisher; Roger Carr, chief executive of Williams; Robert Larsson, chairman of the US group Taubman Realty; and Sir Peter Middleton, acting chief executive of Barclays.

It is odd to think that just a year ago the City was growing increasingly impatient for Bass to spend some of the £2 billion-plus war chest it had amassed from offloading businesses such as Cala bingo, Coral, the bookmakers, and most of its tenanted pub estate.

But what we did not know then was that Sir Ian Prosser, the chairman and chief executive, was plotting a £1.8 billion move on Inter-Continental Hotels, which would provide the luxury brand that was missing from its existing Holiday Inn hotel business.

Even then, it took all Sir Ian's business and diplomatic skills to land the prize under the noses of Ladbrooke, Patriot American Hospitality and Marriott. The victory over Marriott was especially pleasing because the gung-ho American group was so confident.

What Marriott had not appreciated were the niceties of dealing with Japanese companies. Despite its precarious financial position at the time, Saison Group, Inter-Continental's owner, was persuaded not just by the colour of Bass's money but by the way Sir Ian personally took control of the negotiations.

Aware of the painful loss of face that selling Inter-Continental would mean to Saison's bosses, he not only offered them an immediate solution to their financial straits but also drew up a master licence agreement for Saison to operate the Inter-Continental and Forum brands for the whole of Japan (although the future of the Forum brand is under review). This allowed it to retain an involvement with the company, thus mitigating some of the inevitable loss of face.

It is strongly rumoured that what finally clinched it for Bass was a private meeting between Sir Ian and one of the ultimate shareholders of the Saison Group — none other than Emperor Akihito himself.

The acquisition of Inter-Continental has given Bass a sense of completeness it has not had for many years. In a short space of time, mature businesses have been sold off and the money invested in faster-growth areas of the hospitality market. The feeling in the City is that Sir Ian has finally laid down the strategic platform necessary to take the 200-year-old company into the next century. His principal task now is to drive the enormous potential for organic growth his strategic moves have created, although the current economic climate means that this may take slightly longer to prove itself.

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Sir Ian Prosser has laid down the strategic platform to take Bass into the next century. It has a spread of top-class brands in each of its chosen areas, including the luxury Inter-Continental Hotels, its bestselling Carling lager and retail outlets targeting subtly different segments of the drinking and eating-out market.

sive high street investment in such brands as All Bar One and Edward's, and put in place a much more cautious capital expenditure regime. It has also initiated a significant cost-cutting programme.

Despite the worsening trading climate, the tough action taken by the company — allied

to an appreciation that September's trading update was not that bad after all when set against its rivals — has prompted a partial recovery, and the shares now trade at 85p.

There is also a growing perception among analysts that Bass is gradually shifting itself from being an asset-backed

company to one based on brands, such that it is able to leverage the benefits of having a spread of top-class brands in each of its chosen areas. In hotels, for example, it covers virtually the entire market spectrum, from the budget Holiday Inn Express, through the core Holiday Inn brand to Crowne Plaza and, at the deluxe end of the market, Inter-Continental.

The same can be said of brewing, in which Carling — the UK's biggest-selling lager — is complemented by Tennent's, while its Bass ale sits alongside Caffrey's and Worthington. And for the younger market there is Hooper's Hooch. Similarly, the various retail brands range from community pubs, through Toby, Harvester, All Bar One, Edward's and Browns — all of which target subtly different segments of the drinking and eating-out market. An unheralded but potentially significant move was last month's acquisition of the Alex Group, a German

chain of bars akin to All Bar One and Edward's — described by Bass as "a toe in the water" in the continental market.

Analysts are also impressed by the balance that today's Bass has established between cash-generative businesses and those that require cash. The cash thrown off from brewing, for example, is rapidly reinvested in its hotel and managed pub businesses.

All this is a far cry from the company founded by William Bass in 1777 in Burton upon Trent. By 1800, under William's son, Michael, Bass ale was already widely exported, with more than half its production being shipped to the Baltic and the north German ports for sale in Russia, Finland and the German states. Such was its fame that Monet, the Impressionist painter, included two bottles of Bass in his celebrated *Bar aux Folies Bergères*. The bottle label incorporated the Bass red triangle — originally a shipping

mark — is Britain's oldest registered trade mark.

It is a source of personal regret to Sir Ian that Bass bitter, still marketed as "our finest ale" on the label, is suffering from the general decline of real ale. However, the company last year restructured its brewing operations and appears to be well-positioned to capitalise on the strength of its brands, led by Carling, which sells a staggering 3.3 million barrels a year.

More disappointingly, attempts to use the Czech Republic as the base for a push into Central and Eastern Europe have hit problems. Prague Breweries, in which Bass has a controlling stake, continues to suffer from the Czech recession and the Russian crisis. It has just reported its fourth loss-making year out of the past five and minority shareholders have complained of Bass's "unacceptable" management. On the plus side, Prague's Staropramen lager is being exported into the US, Italy and Spain.

Another area of controversy is Sir Ian's remuneration. Last year, his total pay package rose 97 per cent to £1.6 million thanks to performance-related bonuses worth £300,000 and options worth more than £700,000. However, Crisp Consulting considers Sir Ian to be underpaid for someone of his seniority and experience and says the non-executive directors are paid reasonably.

Integrity Works, meanwhile, says that Bass has room for improvement on ethical expression. It says that Bass has a concise statement giving business conduct guidance, but its ethics materials are silent on some areas that are challenging many international companies, such as human rights. Bass, it adds, needs to consider addressing such issues in its ethics statements.

DOMINIC WALSH

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Ethical Expression | 6/10   |
| Fat-cat quotient   | 10/10  |
| Financial record   | 7/10   |
| Share performance  | 6/10   |
| Attitude to staff  | 7/10   |
| Strength of brand  | 9/10   |
| Innovation         | 8/10   |
| Annual report      | 8/10   |
| City star rating   | 7/10   |
| Future prospects   | 8/10   |
| Total              | 76/100 |

Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which top executives' pay package scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

## CSFB may face disciplinary body over Archer trading

By CAROLINE MERRELL, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CREDIT SUISSE First Boston (CSFB) is expected to face a Swedish disciplinary committee tomorrow over the share dealings of James Archer, the 24-year-old son of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare.

The committee could fine CSFB or ban it from trading on the Swedish stock market. Mr Archer, along with David

Crisanti and Adrian Ezra, members of the "Flaming Ferraris" — named for their consumption of a £13-a-shot rum-based cocktail — were dismissed on Friday after a CSFB investigation into the group.

The Swedish authorities said last week that the deals done by Mr Archer in the pulp company Stora were al-

most certain to be referred to the disciplinary committee. If the disciplinary committee finds against CSFB, it will be the first time such an action has been brought by the Swedish authorities.

The investigation focuses on trades totalling around £700,000 carried out by Mr Archer at the end of last year.

## New Covent Garden soup kitchen plan

By PAUL DURMAN

THE New Covent Garden Soup Company is planning to open a chain of 200 soup kitchens that is expected to add up to £2.5 million to the annual profits of S Daniels, its quoted owner.

The first of the new franchised soup bars, known simply as Soup, has just

opened in Hammersmith, West London. When completed in about five years, the full chain is expected to add £12 million to £15 million to Daniels' revenues.

The New Covent Garden Soup Company, which sells its chilled soups through leading supermarkets, is the largest and best-known of the acquisitions made by

Cyril Freedman and Michael Mills, who took control of Daniels about three years ago.

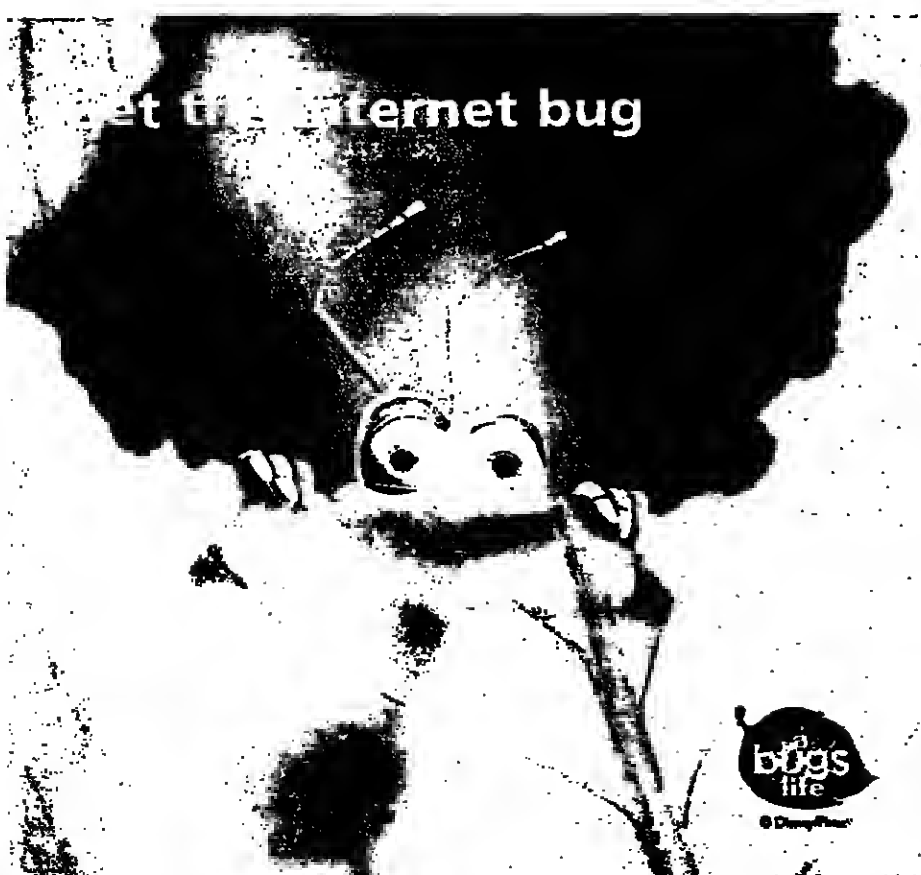
New Covent Garden lost market share last year in the face of increased own-label competition. Shares in Daniels have fallen heavily over the past nine months, which David Hallam, of Williams de Broe, blames

on unfavourable weather, recessionary fears and the poor performance of Marks & Spencer.

Daniels is spending about £1.3 million this year promoting New Covent Garden through television advertising. It is hoped the Soup bars will also support brand awareness.

In a note just published,

Mr Hallam argues that much of the chilled food sector, which includes Terranova Foods, Geest and Hazlewood Foods, is significantly undervalued. He recommends buying Daniels, which on the Williams de Broe forecast of £6.3 million of pre-tax profits this year, is trading on less than nine times earnings.



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هكذا من الأمل







# Budgets aren't what they used to be

Here we go again — the great Budget drama. Will he or won't he give such and such away? Will he raise this or cut that? I suspect that you, the reader, are no longer that much bothered. Budgets are not quite what they used to be. The interesting question is why not.

One answer is that it is all down to the personality of "Gordon the Prudent" or "The Iron Chancellor". He has taken all the fun out of it. I have no wish to deny Gordon Brown any personal credit but in my view the trend was already established under the far from boring Kenneth Clarke.

It was Gordon Brown, though, who handed power over interest rates to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) and at the same time tied himself up in fiscal rules which closely limited his room for manoeuvre. In the bad old days, base rates moved according to the political calendar. They usually fell during the Conservative Party conference in October and again during Budget week in March, sometimes having risen in between. In 1979, during the ascendancy of sado-monetarism, the Chancellor, then Sir Geoffrey Howe, even made a two-point increase in base rates the centrepiece of his Budget. (And,

by the way, he was known as "Mogadon Man".)

Of course, the Budget is still related to interest rate policy. The tighter the Budget, the more likely that the MPC will cut interest rates. Indeed, there have been suggestions (which I suspect are wrong-headed) that last week's decision to leave interest rates on hold was because the Budget, the broad shape of which was revealed to the MPC, is going to be distinctly stimulatory. The Chancellor will have substantial fiscal scope. He will be able to announce a large surplus — a much better result than he forecast last year. It is likely that this is in good measure due to the effects of self-assessment for income tax. Rather surprisingly, this appears to have led to greater tax compliance. In economic terms, the implication is that the fiscal stance has turned out to be tighter than intended — thus, arguably, justifying a big tax cut.

Even so, I think that a distinctly stimulatory Budget is unlikely. The Chancellor will be well aware that in the past, apparently good fiscal situations have had a way of turning sour. He should also have a main strategic consideration in mind. If he is serious about preparing Britain for euro membership then he should



allow this partly inadvertent tightening of fiscal policy to make way for lower interest rates and a lower pound.

But why should we expect the Budget to be interesting and exciting? In which other country is the annual Budget regarded as a mixture of a dreaded meeting with a sort of super-bank manager and another episode of a much-watched soap opera? Our traditional obsession with how many pence the Chancellor is going to add to the price of beer and cigarettes descends from the postwar austerity years when you were encouraged to think that any little pleasure was naughty. Interest in the macro questions is connected with the extraordinary rollercoaster of the British economy. At least until recently, the story has been of over-exuberant economic recovery quickly having to be reversed. Budgets traced out

the vagaries of our position — giving money away one year and taking it back a few years hence.

There has also been a political cycle at work. For most of the postwar period there has been a sharp difference of opinion between the parties about both the micro tax and expenditure issues and the macro questions of economic management. So the ebb and flow of the electoral cycle brought the opportunity and perceived need for substantial changes — which would be announced in the Budget.

Moreover, the prevailing intellectual orthodoxy supported fiscal activism at both the macro and micro level. If some problem of economic structure or behaviour cropped up, this suggested a case for government intervention — either discouraging through tax impositions or encouraging through subsidies or tax breaks. The Byzantine structure of public expenditure and the complexity of our tax system are partly a legacy of this approach.

But now things are radically different. The economy is not poised on a knife-edge — even if we do experience a significant economic downturn bordering upon recession (which I still believe). Meanwhile, the difference between

the parties on fiscal philosophy has narrowed enormously. Furthermore, there has been a reaction against policy activism at both the macro and micro level.

Still, no Chancellor can resist the temptation to tinker a bit and there will doubtless be examples tomorrow. I expect that there will be various measures designed to boost spending on R&D, and something to help small firms. At the level of individual tax, politics, alas, is not quite dead. I suspect that the Chancellor will be unable to resist the lure of a 10p starting rate of tax, paid for by reduction or abolition of the 20p tax band, and further restriction, or even abolition, of tax allowances such as mortgage interest tax relief.

If this does prove to be about the size of it, I hope no one criticises the Chancellor for producing a boring Budget. It is a sign of both our economic success and our political maturity if the annual act of announcing numbers for government revenues and expenditure ranks some way down the list of favourite entertainments. In seeking to encourage a culture of stability and medium-term planning the Chancellor deserves a good deal of the credit.

# Britain should emulate success the American way

Convergence with euroland and surrender of sterling is recipe for disaster, says John Redwood

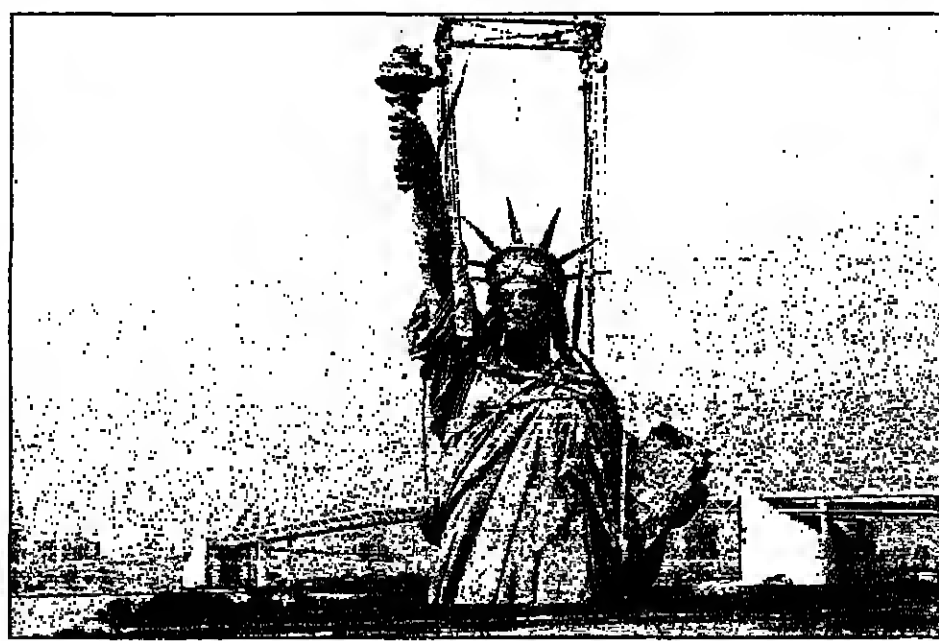


It's official: there is an American way of enterprise and it is better than the European way. That much has now been stated by our own Prime Minister. In his recent statements he has told us that Europe needs to follow the US path of lower taxes, less regulation, a more positive environment for business. The trouble is that the Budget and the euro scheme we see before us point in exactly the opposite direction.

The Labour Government's strategy is not pulling us closer to the US. It is taking us perilously close to incorporation in the European model. We see day by day the Government following an economic policy

designed to get us to converge with the Continent rather than with the US. Taxes have gone up, interest rates went up and stayed up for many months, the exchange rate was put up; it was all a deliberate attempt to slow the UK economy down and make it as sluggish in its performance as the French and German.

Now we can see the Labour Government importing a large number of rules and regulations from the Continent that all serve to make it dearer to do business in Britain. We have adopted a minimum wage with few exemptions, working hours restrictions and invited in whatever comes next from the social chapter. The US has



Model to follow: the continental economy has fewer dynamic young businesses than the US

many exemptions in its low minimum wage and fewer rules on other things.

The costs of Britain's policy are already becoming prodigious. Over the past four years the US has grown by 4.5 per cent more than Germany. The UK was closer to the US performance than to the German, but was slowing almost to a standstill. In a couple of years the UK is likely to lose 5 per cent of national income compared with the position if it was keeping pace with the American way. That means that every adult in the country will be worse off by £1,000 of income each year if we had followed the US model.

Some years ago all the political parties and the business leaders of Britain thought the exchange-rate mechanism would bring us prosperity. They talked of a golden scenario. Disaster struck, companies floundered, many jobs were lost and business was mightily relieved when the experiment ended. Now some of those same people want us to try again, this time converging with euroland and then surrendering our separate currency. They admire Gordon Brown's budgetmanship designed to bring this about.

We can already see the cost.

Day after day factories close and jobs are lost in manufacturing industry. The textile, steel and engineering heartlands are in sharp retreat. The gap between what we make and earn and what the US makes and earns gets ever wider.

The Government parrots the slogan that it is abolishing boom and bust. Industrialists would say that all it has done is brought on an earlier and deeper bust than it need have. Is industry never to recover? It is in recession now: what else can the Government's silly slogan mean?

The continental economy finds it difficult to create jobs. It has a much smaller population of enterprising and dynamic young businesses than the US. Success is often penalised by the regulator. There are much higher taxes on income, on savings, on capital gains and on investment.

Gordon Brown's Budgets have hit business hard, taking £25 billion out of their cashflow over the lifetime of this Parliament through higher taxes. That money which otherwise would have been available to spend on jobs and new investment. The Government has imposed another £15 billion of extra costs from all its regulations.

That's money that cannot be spent on creating jobs.

The Government has decided that sacrificing industry is a price worth paying to get us to converge with Europe. The DTI has said in its Competitiveness White Paper that Britain should switch from industry to high-tech and services.

The policy is certainly forcing de-industrialisation on the UK. In tomorrow's Budget I expect more of the same. Stealth taxes on business, a strategy designed to make us go at Europe's pace, the US's, laced with the harsh rhetoric of a trade war with the world's number one economic superpower. It is not an attractive cocktail. It is bad for business. It means we are going to get a lot more than £1,000 a year poorer as a result of doing it the European way, while saying it the American way.

The Opposition says to the Chancellor, throw away that Budget script, forget about the need to converge, really do it the US way. Then we could have lower unemployment, more businesses and more success.

John Redwood is Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 33

UPANISHADS

(c) The concluding portion of the Vedas, the early religious writings of the Hindus. A hundred and eight in number, they are the foundation of most Indian thought. They are intuitive rather than logical in form, but exhibit a vivid sense of spiritual reality.

ANALEMNA

(b) A scale marked on a globe in order to show the daily declination of the Sun. This enables the reader to determine those parallels where the Sun is directly overhead at any specific time of year.

VENTIFACT

(a) A stone that has been shaped by the wind, especially in arid and polar areas. Abrasion may be achieved by sand, dust or snow. The stones become shaped, and have various surface textures, polished, pitted or fluted. They are of use in indicating past wind direction.

POPINJAY

(c) A mark in the form of a bird set on a mast as a target for archers to knock down with blunt arrows. The sport was never popular in Britain. But it figured as an event in the 1900 Paris Olympics, and at Antwerp in 1920. Twenty arrows were shot at a 31-metre mast. Safety required arrows of at least three-quarters of an inch in diameter, forsooth.

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## TELEVISION CHOICE

# Slow boat to disaster

Disaster: The Marchioness BBC2, 8pm

A new series of the drama documentaries which reconstruct major events begins with the tragedy, ten years ago, when the 15-tonne dredger *Marchioness* sheared into the superstructure of the Thames riverboat. The *Marchioness*, in the small hours of an August morning, fifty-one passengers died even though more than 100 people managed to escape the sinking vessel. The average age of these partygoers was 25. With special effects worthy of *Titanic* we watch now, with the hindsight of two investigations, what appears to have happened. A drunk captain, disco music which had drowned out radio signals, no proper warning lights on the larger vessel, restricted views from the bridges of both craft... the list goes on and on.

Kavanagh QC

ITV, 9pm

Opening with a spectacular air crash, the returning series follows on sharply with the pilot of the jet committing suicide. Scene-setters don't come more vivid than this. And it is a tribute to the script that the court examination of why the aircraft crashed is almost as tense as the opener. It's certainly more intricate: here are plots within plots, and little stories which date back to the Reader-Weinhold days. Exemplary performances all round with Amanda Ryan outstanding as a misguided later-day terrorist and Nicholas Jones supplying the gentle humour. John Thaw, of course, dominates.

Cutting Edge: Asylum

Channel 4, 9pm

The subtitle cuts both ways — once Friern Barnet in North London was a notorious — indeed, looking at old film downright creepy — hospital, the largest mental institution in Europe with grounds five times the size of Buckingham Palace and a working farm (hence the term "funny farm"). It was an asylum for some 2,500 patients. Today it has changed beyond recognition —



John Thaw returns as the down-to-earth barrister Kavanagh QC (ITV, 9pm)

though the vaulted corridors, sweeping grounds and Florentine belltower remain intact. It has been renamed Princess Park Manor and new residents are currently checking out its gorgeous apartments and peaceful gardens.

The Grimleys

ITV, 10.30pm

Now here is an endearingly silly little series to be getting on with — although why this schoolboyish sitcom isn't by night instead of by day is worth a ponder. Brian Conley plays an over-the-top bully school boy in Dudley. He fancies the gorgeous English teacher (Amanda Holden) who is in turn fanned, achingly, by one of her more nerdy pupils. Gordon Grimley (James Bradshaw), Gordon, for reasons which escape me, is cast as Ronan in the school play and Doug "Dynamite" Digby is not best pleased. Like these other somewhat wobbly newcomers, *Days Like These*, the action takes place in the 1970s but it's none-the-worse for that. Nigel Planer and Slade's Noddy Holder are among the cast, though so far Planer has had nothing to do but drowse in front of the television. He's on strike you see. Elizabeth Cowley

## RADIO CHOICE

The Pleasures of the Table

Radio 4, 9.45am

The era of the television cook has tended to make the culture of cooking a visual art rather than the written one that it once was. So this series of readings from the writings of Elizabeth David, Patience Gray, Jane Grigson, Dorothy Hartley and M.F.K. Fisher is greatly to be welcomed. Today's reading is from David and begins with her return to England after the Second World War, somewhat constrained (at first) by rationing. But it seems not to have inhibited her cooking for long, thanks to friends and family arriving from all quarters with exotic food. These included "a sister who turned up from Vienna with a hare, which she claimed had been caught by hand outside the opera house."

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whiteley 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearson 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearson 8.00 Lamacq Live, featuring Orbital, and a feature on the Manic Street Preachers' album *Everything Must Go* 10.00am The Breakfast 2.00 Dave Pearson 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm Jimmy Young 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Band Special 8.30 Jools Holland (6.15) 9.30 Mark Lamarr: *Shake, Rattle and Roll* (7.10) 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00pm Lynn Parsons 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell. Live from Benbecula-Tweed, in the run up to devolution for Scotland and Wales 12.00pm The Midday News 1.00 Ruocco and Co 4.00 Drive 7.00pm The 7.30pm Trevor Smeeth's Monday Match. *Greenock Morton v Celtic in the Tannery* Scottish Cup quarter-final 9.40 Dream Teams. Simple Minds frontman and Celtic supporter Jini Ken talks about his favourite players 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 8.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00pm Let's Talk Soap 1.00 Anna Friel 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 Under the Posts 8.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Mark Forster 1.00am James Martin 4.30 Richard Allen

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Patrice Telemont reviews the first concert of *Towards the Millennium — The 1980s*, conducted this weekend by Simon Pegg. 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobbey. Stravinsky (Pavane), Schostakovich (after Coralli) Sibelius in Pj. Haydn (Symphony No 84 in G, Surtees). Brahms (Missa canonica, Sanctus); Stravinsky (The Firebird, 1910 version) 10.30 *Arise of the West* John Seabrook talks to the Russian violinist Vyung-Whi Chung 11.00 Sound Stories: Indian Summers Donald Macdonald explores the work of Heinrich Schütz 12.00pm Composer of the Week: Friedrich Delius 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Cecilia Ousset, piano 2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra conduct by John Neschling 4.00 Opera in Action Robert Lloyd reflects on the ways in which opera in America differs from elsewhere 4.45 *Music Machine* This week, Verity Sharp looks at some of the huge number of different types of mechanical instruments (I) 5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty 7.30 Performance on 3 Humphrey Carpenter introduces a concert given last Saturday in the Royal Festival Hall as part of the *Towards the Millennium* festival. John Williams, guitar, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Soloist Simon Pegg. Lutoslawski (Symphony No

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 *Prayer for the Day* 5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith 6.00 Today With Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie 9.00 *Search* The Week Discussion programme, hosted by Jeremy Paxman 9.45 (FM) *The Pleasures of the Table* Laurence O'Brien reads from Elizabeth David in the first of the celebrations of food and wine. See Choice (1/5) 9.45 (LW) *Daily Service* From Liverpool Cathedral. Director of music Iain Treacy 10.00 *Woman's Hour* With Martha Kearney and guests 11.00 *Tuesday Into Children* Kirsty Wark looks at how children become articulate and literate (4/6) 11.30 *King of Bath Comedy* by Arnold Evans. Nash reveals his Welsh roots. With David Barber, Ery Thomas, Andrew Wincott and Peter Gunn (3/6) 12.00 (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 12.00pm (FM) News 12.05 *What You See Consumer* news and stories, with Liz Barclay and John Waite 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 Counterpoint Second semi-final of the general knowledge music quiz, hosted by Ned Sherrin 2.15 The Archers Yesterday's edition (I) 2.15 Afternoon Play: *The Girl from Arles* Michael Robertson's adaptation of Alphonse Daudet's melodrama (1/12) 3.00 *What You See Consumer* news and stories, with Liz Barclay and John Waite 3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444 Vincent Duggley takes listeners' calls on financial issues 3.30 *Shorelines* Insight into a range of British coastal communities, beginning with Stafford Bay (I) 3.45 *The Scattered Isle* Anna Massey narrates part 46 of the history of Britain (I) 4.00 The Food Programme Joanna Blythman investigates health concerns surrounding the use of antibiotics in intensive chicken farming (I)

Afternoon Play: *The Girl From Arles*

Radio 4, 2.15pm

There is an unusual aspect to *L'Arlesienne*, Alphonse Daudet's play of which this is a translation, in that many more people will recognise the accompanying music, which was written by Bizet, than are likely to have heard the play itself. Michael Robertson's adaptation features extracts from the stirring and melodic musical score. The play itself is an intriguing and salutory tale set in 1862. It is essentially a story of the unrequited love of a young man, brought up by his mother and grandfather after the death of his father, for a girl from the town of Arles. It seems a perfect match, but what will be the consequences? The play is "no better than a silt?" Peter Barnard

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 The Woman Thing 7.35 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Record News 8.20 *Of the Sea*: Letters From My Windmill 8.35 Health Matters 9.00 World News 9.05 Westway Access 9.20 The Vintage Chart Show 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 LWT: The Queen's Message To The Commonwealth 10.35 Britain Today 10.45 The Farming World 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Pick of the World 12.00pm World News 12.05 Outlook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 2.05 Health Matters 2.30 News Report 3.00 News 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Commonwealth Day Observance 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Multitrack: H-Let 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World News 6.15 LWT: The Queen's Message To The Commonwealth 6.20 Britain Today 6.30 Warm World 7.00 World News 7.05 Health Matters 7.30 Clouded Hike 7.45 *Of the Sea*: Letters From My Windmill 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.20 Britain Today 9.30 Multitrack: H-Let 11.00 World News 11.05 Outlook 11.45 Insight 12.00pm The World Today 12.30 Health Matters 12.45 My Century 1.00 The World's Greatest Story 1.45 Record News 2.00 The World Today 2.05 Warm World 3.00 The World Today 3.20 Sports Round-Up 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's *Essex Breakfast*. Favourite musical voices, plus regular updates from Heavy Metal, the Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week 12.00pm Lunchtime Requests 2.00 Concerto, J.S. Bach (Concerto for 2 violins in D minor) 3.00 *Jazz Classics*. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Requests 6.00 Newswatch. John Branning presents the latest stories 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds 8.00 Evening Concert. Elgar (Enigma Variations); Shostakovich (Missa Canonica in D minor; Symphony No 5 in E flat major); Grieg (Country Gardens) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto, J.S. Bach (Concerto for 2 violins in D minor) (I) 3.00 Mark Griffiths: The Early Breakfast Show

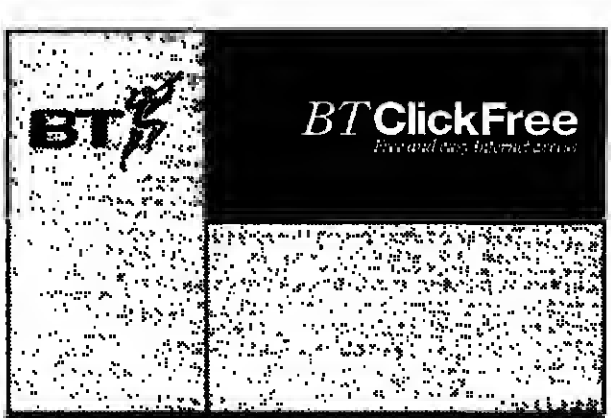
RADIO 3

3) *Taken into the Edge of Dreams*: Vars (after-act. Pains): John Adams (Pavane) 9.20 *Postscript: Radio Poems* — Lullaby of Broadway by George Szeged. For the third year running, Radio 3 has commissioned five of poets to write a new poem for radio 9.40 *Bach* (Fantasia and Fugue in A minor, BWV994). Bob van Asperen, harpsichord 10.00 *Voices in the first of two programmes*, Iain Schubert songs 10.45 *Minding It* Mark Russell and Robert Sandall introduce a session by Jocelyn Pook and her eight-piece ensemble 11.30 *Jazz Notes* Ayn Shapton talks to the drummer Allan Garner 12.00am *Composer of the Week*: Telemont (I) 1.00 *Through the Night* In the first of two programmes (Schubert songs; Auf dem Strom) 2.10 Goldmark (Night Piece, Die Königin von Saba) 3.45 *Claydon* (Quiet Day): Varouchev RSO under Miroslav 3.30 *Gracie* (New Pavane and Galliards) 3.00 *Schools*: Music Box 3.15 Something to Think About 3.30 EAL: Let's Make a Story 3.45 *Stories and Rhymes* 4.00 *Find Out* 4.15 *Notes Challenge* 4.30 *Hopscotch* 4.45 *South Resources* 7.9 5.00 *Scriton* (Poeme satanique 5.05 *Corali* (Trio Sonata in C minor, Op 1 No 8) 5.10 *Zupit* (All'andante) 5.15 *Mozart* (Four Notturnos) 5.20 *Weber* (Clavier Concerto No 1)

RADIO 4

4.30 *Turning World* Jenni Murray and guests look at human interest stories from around the world 5.00 PM with Kevin Boudry and Nigel Wrench 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 *Just a Minute* Jenny Eccle, Stephen Frost, Peter Jones and Tim Rice try to speak for 60 seconds without hesitation, repetition or deviation at the Com Exchange, Brighton. With Nicholas Parsons 7.00 The Archers 7.15 *From Arts Review*, with Mark Lawson 7.45 *The Cry of the Bittern* Environmental drama by Tim Jackson, starring Rachel Aldred and Ian Pegg. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (16/20) 8.00 *Silent Sentences* Peter White investigates the repercussions of crimes committed by one family member against another. Last in series (3/3) 8.30 *Analyse* Frances Cairncross examines rates of pay are determined and the true value of workers to employers and society at large 9.00 *Nature* Mark Carwardine investigates Florida's manatees, focusing on links with evidence emerging in Jamaica of their link with the whale family 9.30 *Start the Week* Broadcast earlier (I) 10.00 *The World Today* with Robin Lustig 10.45 *Book at Bedtime* Ernest Hemingway's *Centenary* — The Sun Also Rises John Sharkey reads part six of Hemingway's acclaimed novel 11.00 *Four on 4*: Chimes at Midnight — Prepare to be Scared? By Nick Fisher. A physical lands himself in deep trouble. David Suchet and John Rowe star (I) 11.30 (FM) *Alas of England* Tony Exels exalts the virtues of traditional English folk music (4/4) (I) 11.30 (LW) *Today in Parliament* Political news 12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: *Sold Dreams* John Updike recalls a lifetime's chubbiness (I) 12.48 *Shipping Forecast* 1.00 *As World Service*

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 92.3-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5. FM 95.3, 90.8. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 158 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 102.1-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.6; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Massey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe



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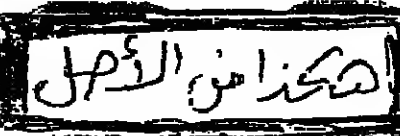
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# A primitive challenge for the TV masses

The riotously popular 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?' (ITV, Friday) is back for a new series. 'Who Wants To Watch People Failing To Get Anywhere Near Being A Millionaire?' would seem a more appropriate title. This is, in every respect, a deeply primitive programme.

All you need to do, if you haven't seen it, is that the all-purpose celebrity presenter Chris Tarrant asks the contestants a series of multiple-choice general knowledge questions and if they get them right they win increasing sums of money. There are one or two fussy complications. The money goes up in levels, and if they get an answer wrong their winnings drop back to the last level. They get a friend for help, have the possible answers reduced from four to two once, and ask the audience to tell them the answer once.

But these are merely diverting

frumpies from the main point which is watching a thicko get lots of money for answering easy questions. I don't know why this should be entertaining, but it is.

Some readers may find the word "thicko" unkind, arrogant, elitist even. Not, I suspect, those who have seen the show, though. This is Lowest Common Denominator television and the questions are carefully pitched so that they will not alienate the target audience. Viewer identification is crucial, and some of them probably have difficulty remembering the way to their front door. For them naming the capital of Finland is as challenging as quantum physics. Fearful, no doubt, that more alert viewers might get scornful, Tarrant keeps reminding us that "it's only easy if you know the answer". Some of the questions are only easy if you haven't spent your life in a catatonic trance. It is depressing that in a country so obsessed

with trivia quizzes, the level of general knowledge is so low.

Tarrant's main job, of course, is to maintain the tension. The contestants are understandably nervous; their answers stiff and fumbling, betraying little hint of personality. Tarrant keeps things bubbling along with his jocular teasing, but he is also very adept at manipulating the situation.

In the earliest questions he laughs at the more absurd possible answers, thus indicating to the number one on the Clapham omnibus that they might be wrong.

But he also uses subtle variations of tone and body language to help them through.

It would spoil the fun if Dave from Bedfordshire fell at the first hurdle because he didn't know what an emulsion, primer and undercoat are, all types of paint. Tarrant's next trick is to look con-

## REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

cerned and ask the contestants if they are happy with their answer. Normally this is code for "Wrong. Try again." But on another occasion he used it on Paul, a goatee-bearded former DJ from Reading, when he had correctly named HMS Victory as Nelson's flagship. Paul looked worried and wasted a "lifetime" checking with the audience. I suspect Tarrant pulled this mean trick out of sheer boredom.

The show rambles on for the rest of the week. Maybe someone will pass through the genuinely difficult questions and win that million, but, hey, who cares?

The ITV companies may be responsible for the direct output of factual programming in living memory, but when it comes to bland television drama, they are still delivering the goods. Making bland television easy is a harder trick than it looks. You need to add a secret blend of herbs and spices, or the junk food tastes stale and clammy. Actually the main ingredient in the success of *A Touch Of Frost* (ITV, Sunday) is short, balding and crabbily avuncular.

David Jason is constantly winning television popularity contests for the simple reason that he can make a character likeable, almost any character likeable. He always like to see him at awards ceremonies. With his hair washed and buffed up he resembles a big silvery fur-ball. As detec-

tive "lock" Frost he is, quite frankly, a bit of a scuff, a sort of provincial English Columbo, in a "Man at C & A"-style anorak. But that just adds to the charm.

A further secret ingredient must be the show's gentle pace. The plots can be complex, not to say convoluted. Last night's tangled web involved a gay hospital porter with more aliases than someone with several aliases, a mysterious corpse, a burglary and the theft of a genuine Hockney. But there is none of the frantic urgency deemed essential in other cop shows, and events unfold at the sedate speed of a Sunday afternoon stroll, enlivened by a stream of nicely underplayed jokes. In an inversion of the "suspended cop" plot, Frost is forced to withdraw his resignation after the traumatic events which ended the last series, in order to clear up the mess left by his appalling record-keeping.

Much credit must go to Michael Bradbury's adaptation, which caught the eccentricities of the characters beautifully, while steering deftly through the twists and turns of the plot. For a former Professor of Literature whose creative writing course produced some of our finest contemporary novelists, Bradbury is certainly not afraid to use clichés, though. I bet he didn't teach Rose Tremain and Kazuo Ishiguro to use phrases like "answers on a postcard please" and "chop, chop".

The BBC, on the other hand, prefers gritty realism. It is remarkable that in the past year it produced two new police series of such quality as *Cops* and *City Central* (BBC1, Saturday), which returned last week. Like Frost, *City Central* is restrained and slow, but it is punctuated by moments of shocking violence, a man thrown from a window for instance, which invest the calm with chilling menace.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (67408)
  - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (52243)
  - 9.00am Killy (1) (2763243)
  - 9.45am Wipeout (840468)
  - 10.10am The Vanessa Show (1) (7642682)
  - 10.55am News: Weather (1) (3202606)
  - 11.00am Change That (321446)
  - 11.25am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (3222205)
  - 11.55am News: Weather (1) (7160243)
  - 12.00pm Call My Bluff (74576)
  - 12.30pm Top Tip Challenge (1) (4738801)
  - 1.00pm One Weather Show (1) (3387061)
  - 1.30pm One O'Clock News (1) (55330)
  - 1.40pm Regional News: Weather (5970576)
  - 1.40pm News: Weather (1) (3584934)
  - 2.05pm Inroads (1) (5060779)
  - 2.25pm The Keyhole (1) (1) (8564494)
  - 3.25pm Children's BBC: Playdays (6608576)
  - 3.45pm Pooker Dragon (5251427)
  - 3.55pm Badger and Badger (5081358)
  - 4.10pm Anthony and the Browns (4201111)
  - 4.20pm The Little Pet Shop (597175)
  - 4.35pm Miley Guts (5280778)
  - 5.00pm Newsround (4945205)
  - 5.10pm Blue Peter (6632362)
  - 5.35pm News: Weather (1) (806576)
  - 6.00pm Six O'Clock News: Weather (1) (595)
  - 6.30pm Regional News Magazine (175)
  - 7.00pm A Question of Sport: A football league special with guests Peter Reid, Bryan Robson, Steve Bruce and David O'Leary (1) (212)
  - 7.30pm Watchdog: Healthcheck: A report from California on a new drug that is helping hundreds to give up smoking (1) (359)
  - 8.00pm EastEnders: Louise promises never to leave again (1) (6382)
  - 8.30pm Mrs Merton and Malcolm sitcom with Caroline Aherne (3/6) (1) (5427)
  - 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (1) (6663)
  - 9.30pm Animal Police: Tony struggles to keep a horse on his feet until a vet arrives (1224)
  - 10.00pm Panorama: Concerns about the increasing young age at which teenagers have their first sexual experiences (1) (54292)
  - 10.45pm Billy Connolly's World Tour: Australia: Billy explores Sydney and Newcastle (1) (1) (882576)
  - 11.25pm Harbour Lights (1) (1) (329717)

- BBC2**
- 7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (7671224)
  - 7.05am Teletubbies (7184804)
  - 7.30am Stripes (5533137)
  - 7.50am Blue Peter (3641408)
  - 8.25am The Tweenies (5238788)
  - 8.40am Polka Dot Shorts (1287448)
  - 8.55pm Ronald the Reindeer (127633)
  - 9.00pm Space Ark (7805448)
  - 9.10pm Short Circuit (4500221)
  - 9.30pm Writing and Pictures (525427)
  - 9.45pm Storytime (8914882)
  - 10.00pm Teletubbies (27259)
  - 10.30pm Words and Pictures (946156)
  - 10.45pm Eyes (945431)
  - 11.00pm Look and Read (3482158)
  - 11.20pm Zig Zag (3338158)
  - 11.40pm Landmarks (6710137)
  - 12.00pm Job Bank (4243205)
  - 12.10pm History File (5415204)
  - 12.30pm Working Lunch (23330)
  - 1.00pm Ronald the Reindeer (8910578)
  - 1.10pm War Walk: Waterloo (1) (1) (4180727)
  - 1.40pm Hart-Davis on History: Alan Hart-Davis visits Harrogate (5580427)
  - 2.10pm A Welsh with Colour (56820576)
  - 2.40pm News: Weather (1) (3474866)
  - 2.45pm Match of the Day: A chat with Jack Charlton (1) (4844040)
  - 3.25pm News (1): Turning Points (4918672)
  - 3.35pm The Village (1) (4611798)
  - 3.55pm Key: Advice show (858243)
  - 4.25pm Ready, Steady, Cook! (1) (834508)
  - 4.55pm Esther: Women in uniform (1) (5320069)
  - 5.20pm Today's the Day (1) (224)
  - 6.00pm Hit, Miss or Maybe Zoe Ball and guests: review three pop videos (1) (1) (137229)
  - 6.15pm The Simpsons: Homer is sent back to college (1) (77053)
  - 6.40pm The Ren and Stimpy Show (1) (843595)
  - 7.00pm Internet Affairs: New series: insight into the work of British Phonographic Industry agents policing the trade against illegal downloading operators (1) (8514)
  - 7.30pm Rough Guide to the World: Edith Bowman and Dimitri Doganis explore the scenery of New Zealand (3/6) (1) (601)

- ITV**
- 5.30pm ITV Morning News (31458)
  - 6.00pm GMTV (5917801)
  - 9.25pm Trisha (1) (8149330)
  - 10.30pm This Morning (1) (44761224)
  - 12.15pm ITV News and Weather (4258966)
  - 12.30pm ITV Lunchtime News (1) (4738063)
  - 12.55pm Shortland Street: Rachel loses out to an old rival (1) (1615779)
  - 1.30pm Home and Away: Geraldine lets her mask drop (1) (3587846)
  - 1.55pm The Jerry Springer Show: Outrageous American talk show (1) (8331250)
  - 2.40pm Wheel of Fortune (1) (2164458)
  - 3.10pm ITV News: Weather (1) (4939663)
  - 3.15pm ITV News: Weather (1) (4939663)
  - 3.20pm CITV: Mopop's Shop (4913427)
  - 3.30pm Kipper (566040)
  - 3.40pm Captain Pugwash (965376)
  - 3.55pm Oggie and the Cockroaches (5242779)
  - 4.05pm It's a Mystery (9338798)
  - 4.30pm Poltergeist (708)
  - 5.00pm Home and Away (1) (1) (2576)
  - 5.30pm WEST: Garden Calendar: Horticultural tips courtesy of gardening experts Alan and Felicity Down (700)
  - 5.30pm WALES: House to House: New series. Home makeover in Aberfan (750)
  - 5.55pm HTV Weather (491934)
  - 6.00pm HTV News (1) (663)
  - 6.30pm HTV Evening News: Weather (1) (243)
  - 7.00pm Wish You Were Here? Ant and Piers explore Namibia and Judith Chalmers returns to St Tropez (1) (5040)
  - 7.30pm Coronation Street: Ian begs Sharon for another chance (1) (427)
  - 8.00pm What's to Be a Millionaire? Ultimate game show (1) (1088)
  - 8.30pm Cop Shop: New fly-on-the-wall documentary series, covering the day-to-day dramas at Gosport police station in Hampshire (1/8) (1) (7345)
  - 9.00pm Kavanagh QC: New series. John Kavanagh returns as the resourceful barrister (1/4) (1) (9088)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.20pm-12.30pm Central News (7497934)
  - 12.55pm Home and Away (4746088)
  - 1.25pm The Jerry Springer Show (4301682)
  - 2.10pm-2.40pm High Road (5664302)
  - 3.15pm-3.25pm Central News (4932934)
  - 3.50pm Shortland Street (708)
  - 5.55pm Update (491934)
  - 6.00pm-6.30pm Central News: Weather (725507)
  - 11.20pm-11.30pm Central News: Weather (725507)
  - 4.30pm Central Jobfinder '99 (4745731)
  - 5.20pm-5.30pm Asian Eye (3544116)

- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.15pm-12.27pm Westcountry News: Weather (4258966)
  - 12.27pm-12.30pm Small Talk, Big Talk (7405953)
  - 12.55pm-1.25pm Westcountry Lunchtime Live: Weather (4746088)
  - 1.25pm The Jerry Springer Show (4301682)
  - 2.10pm-2.40pm Home and Away (5664302)
  - 3.15pm-3.25pm Westcountry News: Weather (4932934)
  - 4.55pm-5.00pm Birthday People (700888)
  - 5.30pm Animal SOS (750)
  - 6.00pm Westcountry Live: Weather (663)
  - 11.20pm-11.30pm Westcountry News: Weather (725507)

- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30pm Meridian News: Weather (4258966)
  - 12.30pm-1.25pm Meridian Lunchtime Live: Weather (4746088)
  - 1.25pm The Jerry Springer Show (4301682)
  - 2.10pm-2.40pm Home and Away (5664302)
  - 3.15pm-3.25pm Meridian News: Weather (4932934)
  - 4.55pm-5.00pm Birthday People (700888)
  - 5.30pm Animal SOS (750)
  - 6.00pm Meridian Live: Weather (663)
  - 11.20pm-11.30pm Meridian News: Weather (725507)

- ANGEL**
- As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30pm Angel News: Weather (4258966)
  - 12.30pm-1.25pm Angel Lunchtime Live: Weather (4746088)
  - 1.25pm The Jerry Springer Show (4301682)
  - 2.10pm-2.40pm Home and Away (5664302)
  - 3.15pm-3.25pm Angel News: Weather (4932934)
  - 4.55pm-5.00pm Birthday People (700888)
  - 5.30pm Animal SOS (750)
  - 6.00pm Angel Live: Weather (663)
  - 11.20pm-11.30pm Angel News: Weather (725507)

**down alia**

Romantic comedy with Nastassja Kinski and Dudley Moore (12.15am)

12.15am Unfaithfully Yours (1983) A conductor plans revenge on his wife, who he suspects is having an affair. With Dudley Moore and Nastassja Kinski. Directed by Howard Zieff (1) (583753)

1.45am Weather (1574977)

1.50pm BBC News 24 (22657821)

10.00pm Labour of Love (4/6) (1) (75205) 10.30pm Panorama: Concerns about the increasing young age at which teenagers have their first sexual experiences (1) (54292)

10.45pm Billy Connolly's World Tour: Australia: Billy explores Sydney and Newcastle (1) (1) (882576)

11.25pm Harbour Lights (1) (1) (329717)

**Disaster New series. Reconstructions of the sinking of the pleasure boat Marmalade (1) (1) (1954)**

9.30pm Food and Drink: Anthony and the Browns celebrates British beef (1) (308)

9.00pm Births, Marriages and Deaths: Tony finds consolation with Alex (1) (577446)

9.55pm Five Go Mad in the Kitchen: Celebrities demonstrate recipes (1) (801798)

10.00pm I! Ruled the World (89525)

10.30pm Newswatch: With Karyn Work (1) (531303)

11.15pm Three Young women who have decided to convert to Islam (1) (127270)

11.45pm Billionaire Britain (1) (449066)

11.55pm Weather (873330)

12.00pm Dispatch Box (51915)

12.30pm BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Persisting Dreams 1.30 Off with the Music TV in the 1960s 2.00 Schools: Science 4.00 Languages: Talk Spanish, 1-4.00 Business and Training: Skills for Work 5.45 Open University: Merian Van Heurnskerck 6.10 Humanism and the Scaffold 6.35 A University Without Walls

**The Grimleys New sitcom set in the 1970s (1/6) (1) (7921)**

11.00pm ITV Nightly News: Weather (1) (304156)

11.30pm HTV News and Weather (725507)

11.35pm Part one. A series of apparently racial murders cause headaches for the police as the body count mounts and tensions in the office reach boiling-point. Robert Pastorelli stars (1) (4353)

12.30pm Football: Extra Football League highlights (3/46)

1.30pm World Football (1) (24660)

2.00pm The Philby Case: Agnès returns from the grave to search for an heir of life. Tongue-in-cheek horror sequel, starring Vincent Price and Robert Quarry. Directed by Robert Fuest (712947)

3.35pm Trisha Show earlier (1) (1) (292919)

4.35pm ITV Nightline: Behind the scenes of the TV programmes (4678404)

5.00pm Coronation Street (1) (1) (20068)

**As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30pm Anglia News: Weather (4258966)**

12.30pm-1.25pm Anglia Lunchtime Live: Weather (4746088)

1.25pm The Jerry Springer Show (4301682)

2.10pm-2.40pm Home and Away (5664302)

3.15pm-3.25pm Anglia News: Weather (4932934)

4.55pm-5.00pm Birthday People (700888)

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6.00pm Anglia Live: Weather (663)

11.20pm-11.30pm Anglia News: Weather (725507)

**For further listings see Saturday's Vision**

**SKY ONE**

- 7.00am Corus: The Corus (730) 7.30am Corus: The Corus (730) 7.50am Corus: The Corus (730) 8.10am Corus: The Corus (730) 8.30am Corus: The Corus (730) 8.50am Corus: The Corus (730) 9.10am Corus: The Corus (730) 9.30am Corus: The Corus (730) 9.50am Corus: The Corus (730) 10.10am Corus: The Corus (730) 10.30am Corus: The Corus (730) 10.50am Corus: The Corus (730) 11.10am Corus: The Corus (730) 11.30am Corus: The Corus (730) 11.50am Corus: The Corus (730) 12.10am Corus: The Corus (730) 12.30am Corus: The Corus (730) 12.50am Corus: The Corus (730) 1.10am Corus: The Corus (730) 1.30am Corus: The Corus (730) 1.50am Corus: The Corus (730) 2.10am Corus: The Corus (730) 2.30am Corus: The Corus (730) 2.50am Corus: The Corus (730) 3.10am Corus: The Corus (730) 3.30am Corus: The Corus (730) 3.50am Corus: The Corus (730) 4.10am Corus: The Corus (730) 4.30am Corus: The Corus (730) 4.50am Corus: The Corus (730) 5.10am Corus: The Corus (730) 5.30am Corus: The Corus (730) 5.50am Corus: The Corus (730) 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## PROFILE 44 Bass brands hold key to millennium

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

# BUSINESS

BUDGETS 46  
Roger Bootle  
asks where  
the fun is



## Private hospitals urged to pass on £100m VAT windfall

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY  
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MEDICAL insurers are threatening legal action to force private hospitals to pass on a £100 million VAT windfall they are enjoying as a result of a court victory against Customs and Excise.

Private hospitals began reclaiming VAT after winning a landmark legal battle which allowed them to recover from Customs the VAT paid on drugs and some surgical appliances used in treatment and operations.

BUPA, which controls one of the largest

network of private hospitals in the country, has already added almost £30 million to its balance sheet as a result of reclaimed VAT.

Now medical insurers who sent their customers to private hospitals believe that since it was they who paid the final bill for treatment, the VAT refund should be passed on to them.

Paul Saper, healthcare analyst with Laing & Buisson, estimated the total VAT windfall due to private hospitals could be as high as £100 million, of which a significant proportion might be due to medical insurers. Among the medical insurers cur-

rently negotiating for repayments are Prime Health, PPP healthcare and WPA.

Prime Health declined to say how much it had recovered so far but said it was "still actively pursuing a positive resolution" in negotiations with hospital networks. A spokeswoman for the company said: "Looking after our customers' interests and negotiating the keenest prices for them are of paramount importance and, as such, discussions are continuing with various hospital groups regarding previous incorrect charging of VAT in certain areas. Some monies have been recovered."

Julian Stainton, managing director of

WPA, said he believed that the company could be owed up to £4 million in VAT and interest payments from private hospitals. He said: "Some of the £30 million that BUPA has already received from Customs and Excise should have been passed on to us. The big hospital groups appear, however, to be extremely reluctant to co-operate. We are currently in negotiations but if we do not secure a proper settlement we will contemplate taking legal action to recover this money."

A spokesman for PPP healthcare said: "Where hospitals have recovered VAT we are working with them to identify and re-

cover the amount of money due to us as a medical insurance company."

BUPA, which is due to report its results next month, said the £30 million included in last year's results was "a one-off payment" which was unlikely to be repeated. The VAT refund related to the period between 1979 and 1996.

A spokesman for the company, which owns 36 private hospitals and has 1,900 hospital beds, said the reclaimed VAT was "ploughed back into the business to improve the facilities in our hospitals".

The ruling by the Court of Appeal two years ago was the culmination of a five-

year struggle. The case was brought in 1992 by a group of private health companies to contest a Customs and Excise ruling that private hospitals could not reclaim VAT on purchases of medical supplies. The issue hinged on whether pharmaceuticals and some surgical devices and prosthetics, such as pacemakers or hip replacements, should be regarded as zero-rated or exempt for VAT purposes.

A spokeswoman for Customs and Excise said after the ruling, which came into force early last year, that certain drugs, medicines and appliances used in hospitals were now zero-rated for VAT.

## UB chief to call the tune at EMI

BY RAYMOND SNOODY  
MEDIA EDITOR

IN ONE of the most surprising boardroom shake-ups of recent years, Eric Nicol, chief executive of United Biscuits, the struggling McVities and KP group, is to succeed Sir Colin Southgate as executive chairman of EMI, the international music and recording group.

EMI, which has previously been criticised over boardroom benefits, is to pay Sir Colin £800,000 in lieu of the final year of his contract, although he is leaving as planned.

Mr Nicol has been a non-executive director of EMI since 1993. He will become chairman designate at the beginning of May and take over formally as chairman when Sir Colin retires at the end of July.

UB announced yesterday that 48-year-old Mr Nicol, who has been chief executive there since 1991, will be succeeded by Leslie Van Walle, a 43-year-old Frenchman, who is currently chief executive of the key McVities Group. Colin Short, UB's non-executive chairman, will also step down



Nicol: takes over in July

in May. He will be replaced by Sir Gordon Hounston, 64, a non-executive director, formerly of Boots the Chemist.

As part of the changes at EMI, Sir Dominic Cadbury, another non-executive director, will become joint deputy chairman and the senior non-executive from July, in succession to Sir Peter Walters.

The global search for a successor to Sir Colin, who has been EMI chairman since 1989 and who is also chairman

of the Royal Opera House, has led to uncertainty at the music group. In choosing Mr Nicol, the board has opted for general business skills rather than a music industry figure.

Ken Berry and Martin Bandler will remain chief executives of the two EMI businesses - Recorded Music and Publishing. They will report to Mr Nicol, as will Simon Duffy, joint deputy chairman and group finance director.

The company said: "In the light of the important roles of Ken Berry and Martin Bandler in the group's businesses, they [the board] have unanimously concluded that the appointment of an executive chairman who brings complementary skills and experience would provide the most effective structure for EMI."

Apart from knowing EMI, the UB chief executive had operated in "highly competitive consumer-orientated businesses throughout his career". Before joining United Biscuits in 1980 Mr Nicol began his marketing career with Rowntree Macintosh. In recent years he has had a tough time at UB trying to compete with strong rivals such as PepsiCo's Walkers Crisps brands and pressure on biscuit margins from supermarket own brands.

UB revealed four days ahead of schedule that its 1996 pre-tax profits edged up as the City expected from £106.2 million to £110.1 million before exceptional items linked to acquisitions. Along with millennium expenses, these are expected to cost £30 million.

During his years in charge Sir Colin has presided over the radical restructuring of Thorn EMI, including the disposal of more than 100 businesses, culminating in the demerger of Thorn from EMI in 1996.



Southgate: £800,000 payoff



Guinness has found its way into the Himalayas with the announcement that the Mount Everest Brewery has begun brewing the black stuff. The brewery, based in Nepal, has started producing the famous

stout just in time for St Patrick's Day on March 17. Nepal is the 50th country in which Guinness is brewed. The deal between Guinness and the Mount Everest Brewery will see the Nepalese company

brew and distribute the stout at 130 bars in the capital city, Kathmandu. The beer will also be transported by yak to the world's highest inns, the "Tea Houses" serving tourists trekking in the Himalayas.

## Plea for tax breaks on floats

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

THE London Stock Exchange has asked the Government for tax breaks on the cost of raising capital as part of a radical proposal to make public listings more attractive to smaller companies.

The request, which is understood to be a key part of the Exchange's pre-Budget submission, is in response to growing fears about the flight of investment capital away from the

small company sector. The Exchange believes tax relief on the costs of flotation would reduce a major deterrent to joining its ranks.

The Times understands that it wants the breaks made available to companies with market capitalisations of up to £250 million, although this figure is not firm. However, it has stopped short of asking that similar relief apply to the cost of fund-raising by companies already listed.

Costs, such as underwriting, accounting, legal and public relations fees, are estimated to consume an average of 10 per cent of the money raised in flotations.

This is thought to be significantly higher for many smaller companies, which raise smaller amounts and can do less of the work in-house than their larger counterparts.

The Government is understood to have given Stock Exchange officials no indication of

whether the proposal would be adopted in this week's Budget.

More than 60 per cent of UK companies have a market capitalisation of less than £100 million.

The collective size of the sector is also highlighted by the FTSE All-Share index, which accounts for 78 per cent of companies listed on the main market.

But these statistics are doing nothing to help the sector's plight.

## BMW Rover pledge expected

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

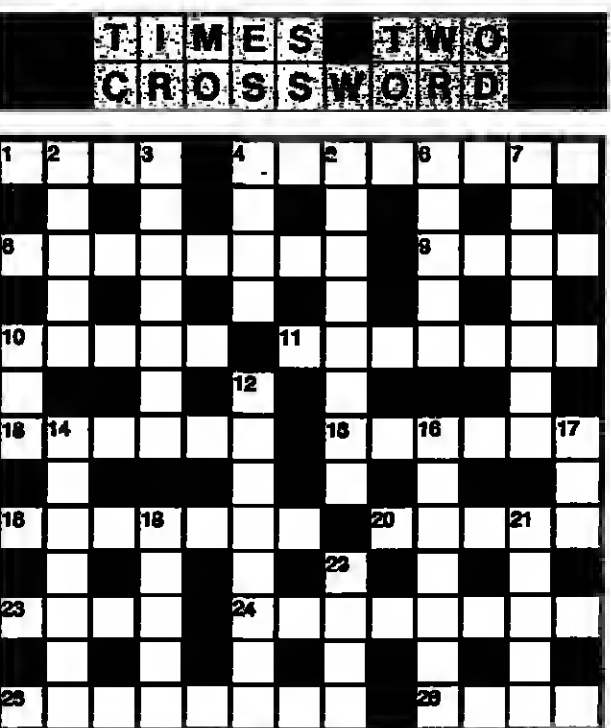
BMW is this week expected to commit itself to building a new small-to-medium size Rover car. But the German car company is not likely to follow the announcement with a pledge on the future of Longbridge, Rover's Birmingham plant, despite applying to the Government for aid last week.

It is thought that the future of Longbridge will be sealed next week at BMW's next supervisory board meeting.

BMW's belated application for about £200 million of state aid has raised hopes that the company is serious about maintaining Longbridge. Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has made it clear that the Government is willing to give financial help to secure the survival of Longbridge - upon which 50,000 jobs in the West Midlands are dependent.

Launch aid for new manufacturing projects are gauged on the business plans of the new development and the cash input from the company. BMW is thought to have held extensive talks with Department of Trade and Industry officials so that its application did not fail or was forced to be modified substantially. Its bid is now likely to be granted quickly.

Although the application is a positive move for Longbridge, it does not mean the plant will survive in its present form or that the new model will be built there. BMW will unveil its plans for the new model at the Geneva Motor Show this week.



No 1659

### ACROSS

- 1 The Ark builder (4)
- 4 Secondary job; to move away from influence (8)
- 8 Camouflage (8)
- 9 Single specimen of book; text for ad (4)
- 10 Pivoted bar (5)
- 11 An American marsupial (7)
- 13 Impostor; pretentious type (6)
- 15 (Taxes, troops) raised (6)
- 18 Thick, sticky (liquid) (7)
- 20 A benign growth; type of tiny sea creature (5)
- 23 Unrestrained, reckless (4)
- 24 Part of small intestine (8)
- 25 Unwillingly allow (8)
- 26 Ghana, Benin neighbour (4)

### DOWN

- 2 Peace-symbol tree (5)
- 3 Healthy practices (7)
- 4 Rubbish bin; bound along (4)
- 5 Name-changing procedure (4,4)
- 6 (Technical) place; (math) curve (5)
- 7 God of the sea (7)
- 10 Edge chess (5)
- 12 Unable to fly; based (8)
- 14 Cavity opening (7)
- 16 Using great force (7)
- 17 Decline; quick swim (5)
- 19 Apple drink (5)
- 21 Immature (5)
- 22 Half sleep (4)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1658

- ACROSS: 1 At all costs 8 Withers 9 Reach 10 Lark 11 Iolanthe 13 Impart 15 Secret 17 Gorgeous 18 Amen 21 Afoot 22 Squalid 23 Split hairs
- DOWN: 2 Tutor 3 Lieu 4 Custom 5 Streamer 6 Shatter 7 Threatened 8 Walsingham 12 Oriental 14 Parious 16 Gusset 19 Molar 20 Tuba

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## WTO to hear banana protest

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE WORLD Trade Organisation will meet in an emergency session today as Europe presses for condemnation of the United States over its banana trade sanctions.

The meeting follows a series of top-level exchanges between Britain and the US, including a meeting between Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Madeleine Albright, the US opposite number, and a telephone call between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton.

Britain is furious about the sanctions against some European Union goods because of the effect on the cashmere industry.

All 134 members of the WTO will be present in Geneva today for the summit, which was called by the EU.

Although the organisation cannot instruct the US to end the sanctions, Europe hopes that its condemnation will force a climbdown.

The US is aggrieved that Europe favours Caribbean bananas over Latin American ones distributed by American companies.

Yesterday Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, became the latest Cabinet minister to attack the US's action. She told the BBC's *On the Record* programme that the US should abide by WTO rules.

Today Brian Wilson, the Trade Minister, will visit Scottish cashmere manufacturers and union representatives. About 2,500 jobs are at risk because of the sanctions.

## Formula One Eurobond investors await green light

BY JASON NISSE

AS THE Formula One season got under way in Melbourne yesterday, the \$2 billion (£1.24 billion) Eurobond being issued by Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One administration appears still to be stalled on the starting grid.

The launch of the bond was first announced in late September and a prospectus was sent to more than 150 prospective investors in early November. The issue of the bond followed an unsuccessful attempt to float Formula One.

There was a presentation by Mr Ecclestone and his investment bankers, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, a few

days later. A few days after that, Warburg Dillon Read and Merrill Lynch, two of the leading brokers of Eurobonds, announced that they had declined invitations to join the syndicate to market the bond.

Then came a rumour that the size had been reduced to about \$1.2 billion and that WestLB, the German bank, was leading a small group of investors who would buy the bond in its entirety. All Morgan Stanley would say was that it was continuing to market the bond. No deal with WestLB has materialised.

After a couple more months of no news and little apparent activity on the marketing of the bond, Morgan Stanley

said this weekend that it was still continuing to market the bond to potential investors.

Many of these potential investors expressed anxiety that most of the money being raised was going to a trust for the benefit of Mr Ecclestone's wife and children, about the interest rate offered on the bond and the security of the income streams securing the issue.

Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, is investigating Formula One's television contracts. Mr Ecclestone and Max Mosley, who runs the sport's administrative body, the FIA, claim the contracts are watertight, but few investors will put up money until after the investigation.

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